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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

ANNUAL REPORT

(12 April 1995 - 19 April 1996)

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL
OFFICIAL RECORDS, 1996

SUPPLEMENT No. 14

UNITED NATIONS

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NOTE

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

Annual Report covering the period from 12 April 1995 to 19 April 1996

INTRODUCTION

1. The present Annual Report was adopted unanimously by the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) at the eighth meeting of its fifty-first session on 19 April 1996.

CHAPTER I

ISSUES CALLING FOR ACTION BY THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL OR BROUGHT TO ITS ATTENTION

2. None.

CHAPTER II

WORK OF THE COMMISSION SINCE ITS FIFTIETH SESSION

A. Activities of subsidiary bodies

3. A list of meetings held since the fiftieth session is contained in Annex II, showing in each case the dates, the officers and the symbols of the report. These reports reflect the discussions held and record the agreements reached and decisions taken. The reports of the Principal Subsidiary Bodies and Working Parties reporting directly to the Commission contain also the programmes of work adopted by these bodies.

B. Other activities

4. Pursuant to the decisions of the Commission, the Executive Secretary submitted to the fifty-first session a number of progress reports on projects carried out under the direct authority of the Commission itself. (See Annex III)

5. The secretariat serviced the regular session of the Commission, meetings of its subsidiary bodies, and other meetings held under its auspices. Periodic reviews, including the annual Economic Survey of Europe, the Economic Bulletin for Europe and a series of specialized statistical bulletins, were published. The secretariat maintained close and regular liaison with United Nations Headquarters and cooperated with the Departments concerned, as well as with the secretariats of the other regional commissions on projects of common interest.

C. Relations with other United Nations Programmes

6. The cooperation of the Commission and its secretariat in 1995/1996 with United Nations specialized agencies and other international organizations, as well as with their secretariats is described in document E/ECE/1334.

CHAPTER III

FIFTY-FIRST SESSION OF THE COMMISSION

A. Attendance and organization of work

7. The fifty-first session of the Commission was held from 15 to 19 April 1996. The Commission heard statements by the Chairman, a message from the Secretary-General of the United Nations, delivered and supported by remarks of the Director General of UNOG, and by the Executive Secretary. Both the Secretary-General and the Director-General expressed their appreciation for the reform process now underway in ECE which complemented that taking place in New York.

8. The fifty-first session was attended by representatives from Albania, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Israel, Italy, Kazakstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and United States of America.

9. The session was attended by representatives of the European Community.

10. Representatives of the Holy See participated under article 8 of the Commission's terms of reference.

11. A representative of Argentina participated under article 11 of the Commission's terms of reference.

12. Representatives of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the following specialized agencies and other intergovernmental organizations were in attendance: Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO); International Monetary Fund (IMF); International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA); Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD); Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE).

13. For discussion of the ECE cooperation with subregional groupings in the Programme and Coordination Segment, representatives of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation, the Commonwealth of Independent States, the Council of Europe, the European Free Trade Association and the Interstate Council of the Republic of Kazakstan, the Kyrgyz Republic and the Republic of Uzbekistan were in attendance.

14. The following non-governmental organizations were represented: International Chamber of Commerce (ICC); International Council of Women (ICW); International Council on Social Welfare (ICSW); International Federation of Business and Professional Women (IFBPW); International Organization for Standardization (ISO); World Federation of United Nations Associations (WFUNA); Zonta International; American Association of Retired Persons (AARP); Change; International Bar Association (IBA); National Council of German Women's Organizations; Nord-Sud XXI; United Towns Agency for North-South Cooperation; World Federation of Methodist Women (WFMW).

15. A complete list of participants can be found in document E/ECE(51)/L.2.

B. Agenda

16. The Commission adopted its agenda (E/ECE/1326) which read as follows:

1.	Adoption of the Agenda	
2.	Strengthening economic cooperation in the ECE region: review of economic developments, reforms and regional strategies	E/ECE/1327
3.	Diversification of the forms and methods of the Commission's activities designed to assist the integration of the countries in transition into the European and global economy (decision B (50))	E/ECE/1328 + Add.1 E/ECE/1329 + Add.1
4.	Preparations for the ECE Jubilee Session in April 1997: implementation of the provisions of paragraph 13 of Commission decision A (50) and of decision 1 (1995-S) adopted by the Special Session on 20 September 1995	E/ECE/1330 E/ECE/1331 E/ECE/1332
5.	ECE cooperation and partnership:	
(a)	Cooperation between the Economic Commission for Europe and the Organization on Security and Cooperation in Europe, including the Concluding Document of the Review Meeting in Geneva (22-24 January 1996) and the fourth session of the Economic Forum in Prague (March 1996), as well as economic cooperation in the Mediterranean in the light of the Final Act of the CSCE	E/ECE/1333 + Add.1
(b)	cooperation and coordination of activities with other organizations and institutions and subregional groupings active in the ECE region	E/ECE/1334
6.	The work of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies for 1996-1997:	*/ E/ECE/1335 to E/ECE/1341
(a)	Matters arising from the work of the ECE subsidiary bodies which require action or decision by the Commission	
(b)	ECE programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997	
(c)	Resolutions and decisions of ECOSOC and the General Assembly which have a bearing on the work of ECE	E/ECE/1342
(d)	ECE contribution and follow-up to UN global programmes and conferences and to United Nations' programmes designed to assist developing countries of other regions taking into account relevant General Assembly resolutions	E/ECE/1343
(e)	Submission of the Medium-Term Plan for the period 1998-2001	

7. Election of Officers

8. Other business

9. Annual Report of the Commission

*/

Committee on Environmental Policy (2nd session)	ECE/CEP/14
Inland Transport Committee (58th session)	ECE/TRANS/116 + Add.1
Conference of European Statisticians (43rd session)	ECE/CES/48 CES/1995/R.25 + Adds
Committee on the Development of Trade (44th session)	ECE/TRADE/199
Senior Economic Advisers to ECE Governments (31st session)	ECE/EC.AD/48 + Add.1
Committee on Energy (5th session)	ECE/ENERGY/28
Senior Advisers to ECE Governments on Science and Technology **	
Working Party on the Chemical Industry (5th session)	ECE/CHEM/101
Working Party on Engineering Industries and Automation **	
Working Party on Standardization Policies (5th session)	ECE/STAND/42
Working Party on Steel (5th session)	ECE/STEEL/91
Committee on Agriculture (46th session)	ECE/AGRI/134
Timber Committee (53rd session)	ECE/TIM/85
Committee on Human Settlements (56th session)	ECE/HBP/93

** have not met since the fiftieth session

C. Election of Officers

17. The Chairman of the fifty-first session of the Commission was Mr. Romulus Neagu (Romania), and the Vice-Chairmen were Mr. Lodewijk Willems (Belgium), Mr. Bjorn Skogmo (Norway) and Mr. Olexandre Slipchenko (Ukraine).

18. Mr. Rakovski Lashev (Bulgaria) and Ms. Sari Huovinen (Finland) were designated Rapporteurs by the Bureau.

19. At its eighth meeting the Commission elected by acclamation Mr. Lodewijk Willems (Belgium) Chairman of the fifty-second session. Mr. Olexandre Slipchenko (Ukraine) was re-elected Vice-Chairman and Mr. Péter Náray (Hungary) and Mr. Michael Bartolo (Malta) were elected Vice-Chairmen of the fifty-second session.

D. Account of proceedings

Strengthening economic cooperation: review of economic developments, reforms and regional strategies
(agenda item 2)

20. The Commission considered this item together with item 3, Diversification of the forms and methods of the Commission's activities designed to assist the integration of the countries in transition into the European and global economy (decision B (50)).

21. In 1995 the political and economic reforms in central and eastern Europe continued. For many countries in transition the year marked a turning-point in their move towards a stable market economy as their general economic restructuring programmes and privatization schemes began to bear fruit.

22. Many delegations of central and east European countries reported that economic decline had been halted and that economic output was recovering. The share of the private sector in gross domestic product (GDP) was growing. Several delegations stressed the role of small and medium-sized enterprises in the sustained economic development of their countries. In some countries inflation had eased, unemployment dropped off and investment improved. Some countries also reported that their currencies had stabilized. Trade links among countries in transition were reported to be growing at a swift pace.

23. However, economic recovery was not uniform throughout this subregion, and some countries were still struggling with high unemployment, large public deficits and inflation. One delegation reported that in its country tax revenues had continued to fall, investment remained low and many companies failed to pay their bills. The delegations of some countries nevertheless expressed the conviction that economic stabilization programmes would curb inflation and boost foreign investment. One delegation voiced concern about the growing social problems and suggested that ECE might wish to turn its attention to such problems. In general, the countries which had been the first to embark decisively upon the reform process seemed to be the first to reap the rewards.

24. Two delegations referred to the economic effects of the conflict in the territory of former Yugoslavia and also mentioned the economic benefits that the prospects for peace could yield. One delegation underlined that special assistance based on concrete programmes should be given for the reconstruction and rehabilitation of the war-torn areas. Two delegations stated that their countries' economies continued to bear the burden of the Chernobyl nuclear accident.

25. Most delegations of countries in transition reported that they had established closer links with international organizations and in particular with the European Union, which was now a major trading partner of the subregion. Some countries were bringing their legislation in line with that of the European Union with the aim of eventually joining the organization.

26. Two delegations, speaking on behalf of the European Union, drew attention to the problem of unemployment and to the link between economic growth and job creation. They expressed solidarity with the central and east European countries in their efforts to reform their economies. These changes in the region had influenced the European Union's foreign policy, and it now paid more attention to central and eastern Europe. Since 1989 it had mobilized considerable resources to assist these countries. It had concluded association partnership and cooperation agreements with many countries in Central and Eastern Europe and the newly independent States. A pre-accession strategy and assistance had been developed for nine associated countries which had applied for membership, as well as Cyprus and Malta. Very significant financial and technical assistance had been channelled through its PHARE and TACIS programmes which were becoming more efficient and effective. The EU was also assisting reconstruction in Bosnia and Herzegovina through the PHARE programme. The European Union also wished to consolidate its links with its Mediterranean neighbours.

27. Developments in regional economic integration were being carried out in parallel with a globalization of economic activity. Regional with a global orientation, the ECE should be well positioned within what one delegate envisaged as a "second generation United Nations", which relied much more on regional organizations.

28. Several delegations underlined the unique role of ECE as a forum where member States could meet on an equal footing. Delegations specifically referred to its transatlantic dimension, the usefulness

of exchanging views on economic policy and performance and the benefits of its comparative advantages. One delegation declared that it would welcome ECE's involvement with its special knowledge - and together with EBRD - in establishing a regional export credit and export guarantee system. One delegation called for consideration to be given to the social dimension of ECE activities. Several delegations stressed the importance of ECE's role in negotiating legal instruments of a regional bearing, as well as in setting and harmonizing norms and standards. Several delegations also called for strengthening ECE activities in the Mediterranean sub-region.

29. One delegation, speaking on future activities of the Commission, stressed that the all-European component in its work should be preserved and further strengthened, primarily in such areas as industry, transport, energy, agriculture and timber, environment, and elaboration of European norms and standards. The ECE should also make an important contribution to shaping an economic dimension of a Common and Comprehensive Security Model for Europe for the twenty-first century. Assistance to the countries in transition, promotion of investment and development of small and medium-sized enterprises should also form major directions in the future work of the ECE, as well as a closer interaction between ECE and other economic organizations and institutions active in the region which could take the form of joint studies and organization of seminars, implementation of projects of assistance and advisory services and training.

30. Many delegations cited the positive benefits which could be derived through greater private sector participation in the activities of the Commission without prejudice to the intergovernmental nature of ECE especially for less advanced countries in transition. This participation may, in particular, contribute to the development of interaction between the public and private sectors of economy. Some delegations expressed the opinion that this might trigger a potential source of fresh impetus and resources from the private sector to the Commission.

31. Several delegations underlined the importance of the evaluation exercise that the Commission was on the point of undertaking and its links with the reform process taking place at New York.

32. At its seventh meeting, the Commission adopted its decision A (51) on the work of the Commission and its future activities (for the text see Chapter IV).

33. At its seventh meeting, the Commission adopted its decision B (51) on participation of the business community in the activities of the Economic Commission for Europe (for the text see Chapter IV).

Round Table

34. The Round Table Conference on Cooperation for Sustainable Industrial Development was organized in accordance with Commission decision H (50). The Round Table was chaired by Mr. Percy Barnevik, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of ABB Asea Brown Boveri. The other panellists of the Round Table were Mr. Jürgen Aumüller, President, TRS, American Express Europe; Mr. Yves Berthelot, Executive Secretary, UN/ECE; Mr. Yves Bobillier, President, Dow Europe; Mr. Franco Mariotti, Senior Vice-President, Hewlett-Packard; Mrs. Hildegard Puwak, Secretary of State, Romania; Mr. Garry Shtoik, Minister of Industry and Trade, Kazakstan; Mr. Andrei Svinarenko, Deputy Minister of Economy, Russian Federation; and Mr. Philippe Véron, Executive Vice-President, Nestlé.

35. The purpose of the Round Table was to identify obstacles to and weak points in the current transition process under the headings of industrial policy development and restructuring, international trade, foreign direct investment, and local training and development of human resources, and then to develop concrete solutions to overcome these problems and speed up the process. The Round Table made the following comments and proposals, summed up by the Chairman:

36. A summing-up of the discussions of the Round Table as presented by the Chairman, Mr. P. Barnevik, is given in Annex V.

Diversification of the forms and methods of the Commission's activities designed to assist the integration of the countries in transition into the European and global economy (decision B (50))
(agenda item 3)

37. This item was discussed together with agenda item 2, "Strengthening economic cooperation in the ECE region: review of economic developments, reforms and regional strategies" The Commission had before it the Executive Secretary's note contained in document E/ECE/1328, his report on the ECE Regional advisory services programme (RASP) contained in document E/ECE/1329 and the list of specialists in the problems of privatization and of transition of different economic sectors to market conditions (E/ECE/1328/Add.1).

38. Delegations observed that this session was taking place during a difficult period of transformation underway in many member States. The initial positive developments in the economic area had been achieved at high social costs, especially unemployment, which risked reversing this progress.

39. Delegates from the Central European Free Trade Agreement (CEFTA) countries spoke of their interest in transmitting their experiences in the transition process to other countries in transition through the ECE forum.

40. The representative of the European Commission noted continued progress in relations between the European Union and the countries of central and eastern Europe, with association agreements negotiated with ten countries, nine of which had formally applied for membership in the Union. Changes had taken place in the PHARE programme, which had been extended to developing infrastructure and economic restructuring. Improvements had been instituted in the management of the TACIS programmes, and the scope opened to cross-border infrastructure investments.

41. General assessment of the Commission's activities designed to assist countries in transition was positive. Some delegations emphasized the need to strengthen the Regional advisory services programme, inter alia by attracting extra-budgetary resources. ECE workshops and seminars were highly appreciated. Cooperation in some important areas of commonly-recognized ECE competence was considered as playing an important role in supporting countries in transition to keep up the pace of economic reforms. Activities aimed at promoting investment and development of small and medium-sized enterprises should be strengthened in the future.

42. One delegation underscored the usefulness of the ECE Regional advisory services programme (RASP) and supported the suggestions made by the Executive Secretary in his report E/ECE/1328, especially those concerning a fund-raising plan and the coordination of advisory activities with the United Nations system and with other providers of technical assistance to the economies in transition.

43. A specific request was addressed to ECE by one delegation for advisory assistance in the development of small and medium-sized enterprises, in restructuring large industrial enterprises, and in the creation of a tax code. The project could supposedly assist with the development of national legislation in this area and provide for professional training of national staff.

44. A special programme of analysis of the situation in the countries that suffered from the Chernobyl catastrophe and overcoming its consequences was also requested by one delegation.

45. Some delegations underlined the importance of advisory assistance in the areas of energy efficiency, privatization, statistics, protection of the environment, trade facilitation, development of small and medium-sized enterprises and in attracting foreign investment.

46. One country expressed its appreciation to the donors of the Trust Fund for Assistance to Countries in Transition (TFACT) and called for further ECE efforts to ensure the availability of extra-budgetary resources for assistance to economies in transition.

47. At the request of the Governments of Georgia and Tajikistan, which were not represented at the session, the Executive Secretary brought to the attention of the session comments and suggestions of the above countries on document E/ECE/1329 on the work of the ECE Programme of Regional Advisory Services (RASP).

48. Although Central Asian member countries of ECE were most in need of assistance, Tajikistan noted that they were at the periphery of the Regional Advisors' attention; it therefore urged that the RASP be strengthened from the regular budget and extrabudgetary contributions. For its part Georgia, which expressed its satisfaction with the assistance it had received under the programme and its hope that the same focused assistance be given to other economies in transition, suggested a better coordination of fund-raising work in order to provide more advisory missions.

49. One delegation supported the continuation of the Commission's activities designed to assist countries of the region in transition to a market economy and their integration with the European and global economy. It proposed to place particular emphasis on the newly independent member States in the Caucasus and in Central Asia. The same delegation considered the provision of "country focused multilateral assistance" to them through the regular programme and the Regional Advisory Services as a very useful tool to give these efforts a greater impact. Some delegations stressed the importance of continuing these activities of the Commission in the interests of all interested countries in transition.

50. At its seventh meeting, the Commission adopted its decision C (51) on diversification of forms and methods of the Commission's activities designed to assist countries of the region in transition to a market economy and their integration with the European and global economy (for the text see Chapter IV).

Review of the economic situation in Europe

51. For consideration of this item the Commission had before it the pre-publication text of the Economic Survey of Europe in 1995-1996. A number of delegations regretted the late issuing of the report making them unable to comment on it in this session. Delegations reported on recent economic developments in their countries in 1995 and the outlook for 1996, identifying at the same time economic problems confronting the region as a whole. Several delegations commended the Survey as a reliable and objective source of independent analysis of the economic situation in the ECE region. Two delegations stated that parts of the Survey duplicated work produced by some other international organizations such as OECD and IBRD. One delegation suggested that the Survey concentrate, in future, on concrete measures and actions that would help the countries with economies in transition in accelerating the process towards market economy and privatization.

52. One delegation elaborated further on the Survey, noting that the IMF World Economic Outlook and OECD Economic Outlook were much more comprehensive and authoritative documents. Moreover, these documents were fully in the public domain and thus available to all ECE members. In addition to analysis of Western economies, the delegation noted that careful consideration needed to be undertaken with respect to duplication of the work of the OECD Centre for Cooperation with Economies in Transition (CCET). The same delegation stated that it might be appropriate to organize a meeting involving the ECE, OECD, EU and IMF, as

was done by the Conference of European Statisticians, where efforts could be coordinated and duplication eliminated. A number of delegations noted that these issues should be taken up in the Ad hoc Working Group on Strategic Directions and Efficiency.

53. As regards the western market economies, the strong recovery witnessed in western Europe in 1994 faltered in the course of 1995 reflecting the slow-down in growth of domestic demand, which, given the close economic linkages among the various countries, entailed a concomitant weakening of intraregional trade. There was strong growth of business fixed investment in machinery and equipment, which was, however, mainly focused on rationalization and modernization. Inflationary pressures remained moderate. There was little job creation in 1995 and high unemployment rates remained a major policy concern. The outlook was for only moderate economic growth of some 1.5% in 1996, with consequential negative implications for the labour market. Hopes for improvement were focused on the likelihood of a strengthening of economic growth in the second half of the year. In the United States, the economic expansion continued in 1995, albeit at a more moderate rate. This loss of momentum helped to contain inflationary pressures at low levels. The situation in the labour market remained much more favourable than in western Europe. The rate of unemployment was quite low and throughout 1995 it remained below the rate previously associated with mounting inflationary pressures. The short-run economic outlook for the United States was for moderate growth of some 2% in 1996.

54. In eastern Europe, real GDP rose on average by some 5.5% in 1995. A major driving force behind this outcome was the robust growth in domestic demand. Exports, notably to western Europe, were a mainstay of economic growth, as in 1994. Inflation rates declined significantly in most countries in 1995, although they remained quite high in many. Strong output growth was associated with a marked slow-down in the fall of employment. Unemployment rates tended, on average, to fall slightly in 1995, but high unemployment remained a major economic and social problem. A striking feature of economic developments in 1995 was the surge in the net inflow of foreign capital, although it continued to be concentrated in a small number of countries (Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland). Official forecasts pointed to sustained output growth of some 6% in 1996, but these optimistic projections could be affected by the deceleration in output growth in western Europe, which now accounted for the bulk of foreign demand for east European exports.

55. In the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) there was a further decline in total output last year, but the drop was significantly smaller than in 1994. On average, real GDP was estimated to have fallen by some 5% in 1995 compared with nearly 13% in the preceding year. In the Russian Federation, real GDP fell by 4% in 1995, much less than expected earlier in the year. As in eastern Europe, there was a marked fall in inflation rates in the countries of the CIS in 1995. Unemployment rates were still much lower than in eastern Europe, reflecting the slow pace of enterprise reform and, partly, statistical measurement problems. The short-run economic outlook in CIS countries remained uncertain.

56. There was some modest increase in economic activity in the Baltic countries in 1995, although there was a fall in output in Latvia. Forecasts pointed to a strengthening of economic growth in 1996.

57. Delegations from eastern Europe and the CIS countries pointed to major policy priorities, such as privatization, enterprise restructuring and the need for further progress towards macroeconomic stability. It was also stressed that a conducive environment needed to be created to foster the international competitiveness of companies and thereby intensify the integration of their national economies in the international division of labour and to develop the domestic financial sector. At the same time, it was important to revitalize intraregional trade. High unemployment, particularly among women and young people, a strong rise in crime and the use of drugs were singled out as adverse consequences of the transition to a market economy. Some delegates pointed to the negative economic repercussions on third

parties of the United Nations sanctions against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro).

58. One delegation pointed to the unavoidable acceleration in the globalization of economic activity in recent years and the associated intensification of competitive pressures. While this would have positive effects on economic growth, there were also potentially considerable social costs associated with it. It was up to Governments to offer safety nets for the layers of society affected by these developments.

Preparations for the ECE Jubilee Session in April 1997: implementation of the provisions of paragraph 13 of Commission decision A(50) and of decision 1 (1995-S) adopted by the Special Session on 20 September 1995
(agenda item 4)

59. For consideration of this item the Commission had before it the Executive Secretary's note (E/ECE/1330) and the Interim Report of the Working Group on Strategic Directions and Efficiency (E/ECE/1331).

The fifty-second Jubilee Session

60. Delegations expressed general support for the possible ways of organizing the Jubilee Session to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary session of the Commission which were outlined in E/ECE/1330. There was general agreement with the plan to limit the session to a one-week period or less and to organize it into two segments. The first segment would be for a shorter duration of 1-2 days and be at high level to deal with policy and strategic issues facing the Commission in the coming decades, and the second segment would be confined to 2-3 days and would deal with the traditional business of the Commission. There was also general agreement that to attract the attention of Ministers or other high-level representatives of Governments in the first segment, particular attention would have to be devoted to its planning and organization. Several delegations suggested that it be future-oriented in focus, business-like in character and that it involve a substantive discussion of the future activities of ECE. One delegation suggested that individual country policy statements should be avoided during the Jubilee Session in order to allow sufficient time for substantial discussions of the future of ECE. Some delegations emphasized that the most important event of the session would be the adoption by member States of the Declaration on strengthening of economic cooperation in Europe, as decided at the fiftieth session (decision A (50)).

61. There was also general discussion of the possibility of convening the Jubilee Session in a venue other than Geneva. Delegations expressed a preference for convening it in Geneva because Geneva was the birthplace of the Commission. They also expressed concern about the possibility of member States or the secretariat having to incur additional expenditures if it were to be convened in a venue other than Geneva.

62. Two delegations urged caution in implementing the proposal that the Jubilee Session be used as an occasion for the ECE to reach out and establish a new and ongoing relationship with private industry and the industrial sector, in case this undermined the essentially intergovernmental character of the organization and given the discussions at the Business Round Table. They pointed out that care must be taken to avoid any one business group dominating ECE programmes.

The work of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Strategic Directions and Efficiency

63. Many delegations also made comments on the review process currently being undertaken by the Commission in accordance with decisions A (50) and 1 (1995-S). They expressed general support for the work which the Bureau of the Commission and the Ad Hoc Working Group on Strategic Directions and

Efficiency had conducted to date in accordance with the provisions of these decisions, and as a contribution to the intergovernmental efforts currently underway to reform the United Nations and its constituent parts.

64. Several delegations stressed that the Declaration called for in decisions A (50) and 1 (1995-S) should be a major focus of attention in the first (high-level) segment of the Jubilee Session. They considered the ECE review process to be a valuable tool for matching resources to activities and for adapting the ECE so that it would be a more streamlined and cost-effective instrument which would be better equipped to meet the challenges of the coming century. They also stressed the importance of the review process completing it work in the next few months so that it could effectively feed into and contribute to the related review and reform process of the Organization which is being undertaken in New York.

65. Delegations expressed their satisfaction with the Commission's efforts to review and prioritize its activities within the framework of the Ad Hoc Working Group of Strategic Directions and Efficiency to reflect the new realities in the region. In particular, delegations welcomed the questionnaire for priority-setting and stressed that the Commission should focus on those activities which reflected ECE's comparative advantages, thus adding real value and yielding efficiency. one delegation suggested that the priority setting exercise should be carried out with a broader vision than a strictly sectoral or divisional basis: an approach focused on aggregate programme elements would provide more flexibility. There was a call for closer cooperation with other organizations active in the region so as to avoid duplication of effort. Delegations also stressed the importance of achieving closer interagency cooperation and coordination in this regard.

66. Acknowledging that the results and recommendations of the strategic review would be the focus of the ECE Jubilee Session in April 1997, some delegations suggested that a number of short-term steps to further streamline the ECE might be taken, such as cutting back on the number of meetings and documents and improving coordination with other international organizations. They stressed, however, that no new activity which required regular budget resources should be undertaken without both reviewing which existing regular budget resource-consuming activities could be discontinued and also without consulting member States. A number of delegations stressed the need for this exercise to be completed before the Jubilee Session given budgetary pressures in the UN and ECE.

67. Many delegations stressed the importance of technical assistance to countries in transition remaining at the focus of attention of the ECE and its Principal Subsidiary Bodies. Many delegations also stressed the importance of the ECE's regional advisors programme being strengthened through regular and/or extra-budgetary resources.

Contribution of PSBs

68. The Chairpersons of the ECE Principal Subsidiary Bodies also informed the Commission of the work conducted and being undertaken in their work programmes. Some also outlined the initiatives taken to streamline the work programmes and methods of work, to increase their efficiency by having more focused work programmes, to assist countries in transition, and to improve their documentation and publications. There was a consensus on the importance of all PSBs taking initiatives along these lines and the need for the Ad Hoc Working Group on Strategic Directions and Efficiency to look further into these initiatives as possible contributions to the attainment of more widespread efficiencies and to the overall Review Process.

69. Delegations welcomed the process of streamlining, rationalizing and prioritizing of the PSBs' work programmes. However, they stressed the importance of this process being institutionalized as a

continuous and ongoing procedure, and the importance of it being undertaken in close cooperation with other international and supranational organizations working in related areas.

70. Delegations stressed the importance of PSBs instituting more efficient methods of work, such as more frequent recourse to informal or task force meetings, reducing documentation, eliminating publications and relying more extensively on new technologies. They also stressed the importance of the ECE and its PSBs channelling their activities into areas where they had a comparative advantage, and tailoring their work to complement that of other international and supranational organizations.

71. In the case of one PSB, namely, the Group of Senior Advisers on Science and Technology, a certain lack of interest on the part of western countries was noted, in particular in selecting a topic for a forum discussion to be held at the next session. In order to awaken the general interest of the members of this body, it was suggested that its work be focused on selected issues of mutual interest. Similarly, it was recommended that the Senior Economic Advisers select concrete issues for discussion which would be well prepared by rapporteurs and/or individual countries, and which might subsequently be the object of a specific study.

Cooperation between the Economic Commission for Europe and the Organization on Security and Cooperation in Europe, including the Concluding Document of the Review Meeting in Geneva (22-24 January 1996) and the fourth session of the Economic Forum in Prague (March 1996),as well as economic cooperation in the Mediterranean in the light of the Final Act of the CSCE
(agenda item 5(a))

72. The Commission had before it the Executive Secretary's report contained in documents E/ECE/1333 and Add.1.

73. With regard to collaboration between ECE and the OSCE, the Executive Secretary referred to the remarks of delegations in their introductory statements which had acknowledged the excellent contribution of ECE to OSCE meetings. He declared that the ECE's awareness of the issues and its ability to follow-up decisions meant that it was ideally placed to make an effective contribution to the seminars which the OSCE was proposing to organize this year.

74. Many delegations paid tribute to the ECE secretariat's contribution to the three OSCE economic dimension events which had taken place since the last session of the Commission, both in the preparation of documentation for these events and in the proceedings themselves, where ECE had provided excellent moderators and rapporteurs. In particular, the document prepared by the ECE in January 1996 at the request of the permanent Council of the OSCE, on the implementation of commitments contained in the Document of the Bonn Conference on Economic Cooperation in Europe, was warmly commended. Other delegations noted that such contributions were helping to enhance the status of the Economic Dimension in the OSCE process.

75. With regard to the future work of the OSCE, delegations urged closer cooperation between ECE and the OSCE so that the latter could benefit from the ECE's rich experience and expertise. One delegation representing the chairman in office of OSCE noted the flexibility of the ECE secretariat in responding to the needs of the OSCE and its secretariat and requested that this form of pragmatic cooperation should continue. However, this effective form of collaboration between the OSCE and the ECE also implied better coordination at the national level between the bodies responsible for OSCE and ECE affairs. One delegation, welcoming the broadening of collaboration between the two organizations, suggested that clear divisions of authority might be enhanced by the holding of discussions between the respective organizations. Some delegations suggested that some concrete forms of cooperation could

be arranged between the ECE and the OSCE on the basis of complementarities between the two institutions. One delegation noted that this cooperation should not result in additional bureaucracy for either organization.

76. Several delegations, referring to some proposals reflected in the Chairman's Summary of the Fourth OSCE Economic Forum in Prague, highlighted the useful role ECE could play in helping the OSCE devise a type of early warning system in the economic sphere to defuse social tension and to initiate preventive actions.

77. The representative of the OSCE drew the attention of delegates to the specific input that would be required from ECE to organize the seminars which had been agreed by OSCE States in the Economic Forum in Prague. The ECE Trade Division could make a substantive contribution to the seminar to be held in Minsk by the preparation of the agenda and in the utilization of ECE documentation and experts for this event. The representative of the OSCE also expressed the wish to have support from the Division of Environment and Human Settlements in the organization of the second seminar in Uzbekistan. He expressed his appreciation for this type of cooperation and the desire of the OSCE secretariat to develop the cooperation between the secretariats in the future.

78. Several delegates urged ECE to enhance its activities in promoting stability and security in the Mediterranean region and to follow up the recommendations made in document E/ECE/1333 on strategic orientations for further involving the Mediterranean countries in ECE activities.

79. One delegation pointed out that assistance to countries in transition should make a sphere of cooperation between ECE and OSCE through joint organization of seminars on matters such as economic reforms, investment promotion.

80. One delegation, while welcoming the closer cooperation that was developing between OSCE and ECE, questioned the linkage in the title of document E/ECE/1333 between cooperation between the ECE and the OSCE and cooperation in the Mediterranean. This delegation therefore proposed that in future the matters be discussed on the basis of two separate documents.

81. Some delegations underlined that all ECE countries were bound by the common objective of seeing the Mediterranean region transformed into an area of peace and stability, and that this objective was directly linked with economic and social development. The Euro-Mediterranean Conference held in Barcelona was considered as a landmark for the future partnership in the Mediterranean basin. Other initiatives were mentioned, in particular the Mediterranean Forum, the Mediterranean Crans Montana Forum, the Stability Pact for the Mediterranean, and the Barcelona Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution.

82. Several delegations noted that the ECE had a role to play in promoting economic cooperation in the subregion and expressed satisfaction with the report of the Executive Secretary contained in document E/ECE/1333 which reflected wide-ranging activities undertaken by the ECE to strengthen that cooperation.

83. One delegation called for strengthened collaboration between the ECE and the OSCE for the organization of workshops and seminars on economic cooperation that were devoted to Mediterranean questions.

84. At its seventh meeting, the Commission adopted its decision D (51) on strengthening of cooperation between the Economic Commission for Europe and the Organization on Security and Cooperation in Europe (for the text see Chapter IV).

85. At its seventh meeting, the Commission adopted its decision E (51) on economic cooperation in the Mediterranean (for the text see Chapter IV).

Cooperation and coordination of activities with other organizations and institutions and subregional groupings active in the ECE region
(agenda item 5(b))

86. The Commission had before it the Executive Secretary's note contained in document E/ECE/1334.

87. Several delegations encouraged further cooperation of the ECE with other subregional groupings, in particular the Commonwealth of Independent States, the Central European Initiative, the Black Sea Economic Cooperation and the Council of Baltic States.

88. The representative of the Secretariat of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) presented several agreements which had been recently reached among some CIS members and which all aimed at strengthening cooperation and integration within the subregion. The representative called for increased participation of CIS countries in ECE activities, especially in the fields of transport, energy and environment.

89. On behalf of the Central European Initiative (CEI), the country currently assuming its presidency presented recent developments and activities of this subregional grouping whose membership comprised ten ECE member States while five other countries would shortly become members. It was highlighted that the CEI was now concentrating its efforts in three main areas, namely economic cooperation, support of the integration process, and political dialogue among member countries.

90. The representative of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC) which comprised 11 member countries, with 9 countries in transition, stated that cooperation within this subregional grouping had mainly developed in the fields of energy, technology and transport. BSEC would welcome cooperation with the ECE in these areas, and particularly with the Transport and Energy Divisions. BSEC was also ready to consider establishing a memorandum of understanding which would organize the cooperation between the two institutions.

91. The representative of the Executive Committee of the Interstate Council underlined that the three countries which were members of the Council had adopted a plan for joining efforts in further stabilizing their economies. The three Heads of States had also agreed to cooperate on 10 priority projects in the fields of energy, environment, water resources and agriculture. The representative of the Council called for ECE expertise in order to support transport infrastructure projects for Euro-Asian road and railway connections.

92. The representative of the Council of Baltic States stated that the two main areas for dialogue within the Council were the strengthening of democracy and market economy. A Conference would be held next May in order to discuss further progress in this respect.

93. The delegation of Ukraine made a remark related to document E/ECE/1334 which was to be taken into account by the secretariat.

The work of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies for 1996-1997
(agenda item 6)

94. An account of the discussions under sub-items 6(a) to (e) is contained in paragraphs 95 to 153 below under the appropriate sub-headings.

Matters arising from the work of the ECE subsidiary bodies which require action or decision by the Commission
(agenda item 6 (a))

95. For discussion of this sub-item the Commission had before it the reports of the Principal Subsidiary Bodies (PSBs) and the working parties reporting directly to the Commission, the Report on the Consultations held by the members of the Bureau of the Commission with the Bureaux of the PSBs and the working parties reporting directly to the Commission, as well as the Summary Document.

96. In his introductory statement, the Executive Secretary stressed the importance of the work of the PSBs and the key role played by their Chairpersons. He drew the attention of the Commission to the need to take a decision on the request made by the Working Party on Standardization Policies to change its name to Working Party on Technical Harmonization and Standardization Policies, as mentioned in paragraph 136 of document E/ECE/1336. The Executive Secretary proposed that any decision on the Timber Committee's request to be considered as a priority area of work be postponed until the Commission's work had been completely reviewed.

Committee on Environmental Policy

97. The dynamic cooperation under the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution was particularly praised. Delegations stressed the importance of the ratification by countries concerned of the Protocol concerning the Control of Emissions of Volatile Organic Compounds and the Protocol on Further Reduction of Sulphur Emissions. The importance of the forthcoming negotiations on strategies for further reducing emissions of nitrogen oxides was stressed, as well as the ongoing work to prepare a protocol on persistent organic pollutants and heavy metals.

98. Several delegations considered the third Ministerial Conference "Environment for Europe", held in Sofia from 23 to 25 October 1995, as a major event in the ECE region, as it promoted the further implementation of Agenda 21 at the regional level. It was stressed that the Sofia Conference confirmed the important role of ECE in the "Environment for Europe" process. The follow-up activities entrusted to ECE, especially the preparation of the next Ministerial Conference to be held in Denmark, were considered as a sign of the confidence of Governments in ECE's ability to handle such matters. Two delegations stressed the importance of the role that ECE had to play in the implementation of the Environmental Programme for Europe adopted by the Sofia Conference, in particular in the preparation, in cooperation with other PSBs, of the European Energy Conservation Strategy.

99. One delegation stressed the importance that it attached to legislation to protect water resources and aquatic ecosystems against pollution, and to manage water resources. Several delegations supported the work undertaken by the Committee on public information. Delegations considered the Environmental Performance Review process initiated within ECE for non-OECD members countries to be crucial, both for the reviewed countries and also for other ECE countries, as it gave a better view of the progress made in the various countries in the field of environment. Two delegations praised the first review on Estonia finalized by ECE.

100. One delegation commended the work of the Joint Working Group on Environment and Economics, considering that it represented the kind of cross-sectoral cooperation that helped to promote sustainable development objectives in the organization as a whole. One delegation recommended that environmental considerations be integrated in all ECE activities and a better budgetary transparency in the field of environmental activities of the Committee itself would be necessary.

101. At its seventh meeting, the Commission adopted its decision F (51) on cooperation in the field of environment and sustainable development (for the text see Chapter IV).

Inland Transport Committee

102. Many delegations stressed the importance their countries attached in general to the work of the Committee. In particular, the areas of construction of vehicles, transport of dangerous goods, customs questions affecting transport (with special emphasis on the revision of the TIR Convention) and combined transport were repeatedly mentioned. Work on road safety and the development of coherent infrastructure networks was also considered important by a number of delegations.

103. Several delegations also stressed the importance of the forthcoming Regional Conference on Transport and Environment and mentioned that they stood ready to participate actively in its preparation. One delegation welcomed the progress made in preparation of the final documents of the Conference.

104. One delegation considered that the Working Party on the Construction of Vehicles (WP.29) should become a truly global forum for harmonization of vehicle regulations and that the 1958 Agreement would need to be amended in order to enhance its global scope and application.

105. The Committee was commended for its efforts to coordinate its activities with other organizations so as to avoid duplication of work.

106. Several delegations praised the work related to Trans-European North-South Motorways and Railways (TEM and TER). These projects were considered an important element in the development of coherent road and rail transport infrastructures in central and eastern Europe.

107. At its seventh meeting, the Commission adopted its decision G (51) on cooperation in the field of transport (for the text see Chapter IV).

Conference of European Statisticians

108. Delegations appreciated the work conducted by the Conference of European Statisticians. During the last three years the Conference had made an impressive effort to improve its efficiency. The Joint Presentation of Statistical Work Programmes, in which was presented information on the planned future statistical work programmes of all international agency activities in the region, including the United Nations Statistical Division, IMF, World Bank, ILO, WHO, Eurostat and OECD, was welcomed.

109. The close cooperation which existed between the Conference, Eurostat and OECD was cited as an example of the coordination and complementarity which should be emulated, where possible, by other PSBs and other international organizations working in the region.

Working Party on Facilitation of International Trade Procedures

110. A number of delegations praised the work of ECE on trade facilitation and UN/EDIFACT. The cooperation between the public and private sectors in developing, implementing and improving business techniques which increased the efficiency in delivering goods and services was considered a model worth emulating by all programmes and regional commissions Some delegations supported the agreements reached in the Working Party on its re-engineering process, including the establishment of the Centre for EDIFACT subordinate to the Committee on the Development of Trade.

111. The consolidation of cooperation with other intergovernmental and international organizations was also commended, in particular with respect to the cooperation between ECE, ISO and IEC for which a memorandum of understanding had been signed to establish a management committee.

Senior Economic Advisers

112. One delegation praised the activities of SEA and its contribution to the analysis of the economic situation in the region, in particular in countries in transition, and called for accelerating the analytical work of SEA. The delegation proposed that SEA should elaborate a system of early-warning indicators for economic crises in the region, as an ECE contribution to shaping an economic dimension of a Common and Comprehensive Security Model for Europe for the twenty-first century.

Committee on Energy

113. Several delegations stressed the importance they attached to the activities of the Committee, including the programme of workshops and seminars. They highlighted the particular relevance to countries in transition of the Energy Efficiency 2000 Project, the Gas Centre and the Clean Coal Implementation Programme. They considered these to be important tools for the transfer of know-how and technology to the countries in transition, as well as for personnel and institutional capacity building. Two delegations pointed out that the activities of the Committee could include other energy sources, in particular oil. One delegation stressed the important role of the activity of the Regional Advisor on energy.

114. Some delegations noted the important linkages between energy and the economy (e.g. economic growth and development), energy and the environment, and energy and transport. Some delegations considered the preparation of a European Energy Strategy as an important undertaking for the Commission.

115. At its seventh meeting, the Commission adopted its decision H (51) on cooperation in the field of energy (for the text see Chapter IV).

Committee on the Development of Trade

116. Several delegations underlined the need to further liberalize trade within the ECE region and to facilitate market access for countries in transition. The Committee was commended as a unique forum for dialogue on all aspects of trade and investment on a pan-European basis. As many ECE member countries did not yet qualify for membership of the World Trade Organization, the Committee on the Development of Trade was a significant body for those countries but also for countries with interests in and responsibility for the economic development of the region. One delegation welcomed ECE as an observer to the WTO Technical Barriers to Trade Committee but expressed reservations regarding ECE involvement in accessions or trade policy reviews.

117. The Committee was commended for revising its mandate and working methods to make them more efficient and cost-effective, and redefining its work programme to contribute to enterprise and trade development.

118. Special attention was drawn to the results of the Forum on Attracting Investment to Large-scale Infrastructure Projects in the Countries of Central and Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States, which brought more than 300 representatives of public and private sector enterprises to Geneva.

Industry and Technology

119. Several delegations underlined the importance of the industry sector for economic development. In spite of the limited resources devoted to the implementation of its programme of work, impressive results had been achieved. The interest in regional programmes such as CHEMISEED (Chemical Industry - Sustainable Economic and Ecological Development) and Metallurgy and Ecology for all the member States of the region was underlined. The same delegations noted in this respect that the programme of the Regional Advisory Service should be further strengthened and serve the interests of all countries in transition and not be focused on a specific group of countries.

120. The diversified methods of assistance to countries in transition was appreciated, notably through studies, seminars, workshops and advisory services. The uniqueness of the industrial statistics which were among the important activities of the Working Parties on Engineering Industries and Automation, the Chemical Industry and Steel were pointed out.

121. The considerable interest of the private sector in the implementation of the programme of industry and technology was an indication of the importance of these activities in the ECE.

Senior Advisers to ECE Governments on Science and Technology

122. One delegation underlined the crucial importance for its country in transition of such issues as State support for, and motivation of the private sector to be involved in, fundamental and applied R and D activities. It was in favour of continuing biennial reviews of major changes in national science and technology policies including the collection of statistical data on main science and technology indicators for the economies in transition. It also welcomed the publication on safety guidelines in biotechnology and called for the continuation of the work in this area. Another delegation voiced its interest in participating in the seminar to be held in Poland under the auspices of the Senior Advisers.

Working Party on the Chemical Industry

123. Several delegations expressed their interest in specific activities of the Working Party, in particular the CHEMISEED Regional Programme, the databank on chemical legislation, low- and non-waste chemical technology and the forthcoming workshop on restructuring and modernization of the chemical industry of countries in transition, to be held in Ukraine.

Working Party on Engineering Industries and Automation

124. A few delegations commended the activities of the Working Party, notably in engineering statistics with OECD, the seminar on new statistical nomenclatures, the Workshop on SMEs and other activities related to sustainable industrial development.

Working Party on Standardization Policies

125. In the general debate on ways and means of strengthening economic cooperation in the ECE region, several delegations expressed support for the activities of the Working Party on Standardization Policies. One delegation referred to the initiative of sponsoring a training programme for metrologists as being particularly useful and a possible model for other PSBs to follow.

126. The Commission adopted the revised terms of reference and title proposed by the Working Party (ECE/STAND/42, paragraph 18 (a)).

Working Party on Steel

127. Several delegations supported the projects undertaken by the Working Party on Steel in the framework of its three priorities, namely the economic analysis of the steel sector, the assistance given to the countries in transition, and the environmental protection and sustainable development of the steel sector.

Committee on Agriculture

128. Concern was raised about the future of the Committee. While one delegation stressed that in view of the lack of resources it would have to be dismantled after the fifty-second session of the Commission, some delegations stressed the importance of the Committee especially for countries which were not members of the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and emphasized the urgency of continuing the activities of the Committee on Agriculture. These delegations indicated that the financial means to continue this work should be found through measures of economy of resources of the Commission as well as mobilization of extra-budgetary resources and also favoured the idea of setting up a joint FAO/ECE Commission on Agriculture, taking into account particular proposals on the merger of two bodies by the FAO and ECE secretariats.

129. Several delegations praised the work of ECE on the standardization of perishable produce. They expressed the hope that the Executive Secretary would do his utmost to allocate appropriate resources to this activity.

Timber Committee

130. Delegations considered the work of the Timber Committee as unique and of great importance, especially since it gathered together representatives of the public and private bodies from forest and forest products sectors. Its work was a significant contribution to sustainable development and contributed directly to the UNCSD and the Helsinki Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe. The good cooperation which existed between ECE and FAO in relation to timber issues was also commended.

Committee on Human Settlements

131. Several delegations noted the substantive preparatory work of ECE for the forthcoming United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II). It was also pointed out that ECE work on human settlements was essential for monitoring environmental performance within the framework of sustainable development.

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132. Following the discussion under this agenda item, the Commission adopted its programme of work for 1996-1997 and endorsed in principle, subject to review at its fifty-second session, its programme of work for 1996-2000 (E/ECE/1341).

ECE programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997
(agenda item 6 (b))

133. The Executive Secretary reported to the Commission on the regular budget of ECE (Section 17 of the Programme Budget of the United Nations) which had been reduced from the Secretary-General submission of US$ 54,033,200 to US$ 52,883,100 at the time the budget had been adopted by the General Assembly and then subsequently further reduced to US$ 50,845,300 as a result of the savings of

US$ 104 million for the entire United Nations mandated by the General Assembly. To meet these reductions, the Executive Secretary had been forced to freeze existing vacant posts, this because approximately 95% of ECE budget represented staff and related costs and it was not therefore possible to achieve the savings under other objects expenditure.

134. Acknowledging the difficulties involved, the Executive Secretary emphasized that attempts were being made to ease, to the extent possible, the resulting negative impact caused by the vacancies and their unequal distribution by redeploying staff among ECE divisions. Furthermore, the regional advisor programme had also been affected. Due to the freeze on regular budget expenditure during the last quarter of 1995, certain training activities had been cancelled, with the consequence that the 1996-1997 funds, which were allocated to this programme on the basis of actual 1994-1995 expenditure, had been reduced. The Executive Secretary emphasized that the support of member Governments would be essential in ensuring that adequate resources would be allocated in future budget exercises. The point was also made that if conference servicing resources were an integral part of the ECE budget, ECE's share of budget reductions could be met through a reduction in the number of meetings rather than through the freezing of vacancies.

135. A number of delegations expressed their gratitude to the Executive Secretary for the explanation provided regarding the actual situation of secretariat resources and possible measures to counteract the prevailing financial constraints. One delegation asked the Executive Secretary to continue to keep the Commission informed on measures taken.

136. One delegation stressed that the fiftieth General Assembly had approved the ECE budget for 1996-1997 with a certain real growth compared to the previous biennium, and economy measures proposed by the Secretary-General had not yet been decided upon by the General Assembly. In this context the delegation emphasized the need for adequate resources for the Commission to be continued and taken into account by the resumed fiftieth General Assembly session when discussing the economy measures.

137. The Chairman of the Working Party on Standardization Policies stated that the demanding work to be assumed by the secretariat staff and back-stopped by the regional advisor would require further strengthening of the secretariat and filling of respective vacancies. This proposal was supported by one delegation.

138. The Chairman of the Conference of European Statisticians expressed his concern that more secretariat resources should be made available to the work under the Conference so that it would be in a position to assume its coordinating role and to make progress in areas where it had comparative advantage, in particular socio-demographic, migration, environment as well as economic and foreign trade statistics.

139. One delegation indicated that more secretariat resources needed to be allocated to the servicing of international legal instruments in the field of environment and, in particular, to the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution as already indicated by the Chairman of its Executive Body. One delegation suggested that the ECE secretariat should prepare for the next session of the Committee on Environmental Policy a detailed budget for the envisaged environmental activities so that the Committee was in a position to take informed decisions on setting priorities for its future programme of work.

140. The European Union expressed great interest in the activities related to transport and, without prejudging the Executive Secretary's decision, attached great importance to the filling of the vacant posts in the Transport Division, taking into account the overall financial situation of the United Nations. Similarly, adequate resources should be allocated to the secretariat for servicing the Timber Committee.

141. Two delegations stated that the budgetary problems should not be interpreted in a restrictive way which could lead to the elimination of posts. Several delegations stated that savings should be made through rationalization of work, limiting the length of meetings and documentation, thereby minimizing their impact on substantive programmes. One delegation requested the Executive Secretary to provide the Ad Hoc Working Group on Strategic Directions and Efficiency with information on possible savings to this end.

142. A number of delegations suggested that the programme budget and the work plan of ECE should be re-examined in the light of the outcome achieved by the Ad Hoc Working Group on Strategic Directions and Efficiency which would also identify resource needs and which could provide a strong argument in favour of ECE during future budget discussions by the General Assembly.

143. One delegation called for a balanced approach in reviewing the distribution of resources and stated that the latter should take particularly into account the present needs and priorities of countries in transition. In view of the budgetary constraints, some delegations emphasized the need to seek extrabudgetary resources through cooperation with funding institutions and the private sector and increased contributions to the Trust Fund for Assistance to the Countries in Transition (TFACT).

Resolutions and decisions of ECOSOC and the General Assembly which have a bearing on the work of ECE
(agenda item 6(c))

144. For consideration of this sub-item the Commission had before it the Executive Secretary's note contained in document E/ECE/1342.

145. One delegation stated that any mandates from ECOSOC or Assembly resolutions should be consistent with ECE's mandates and also its priorities which are now being reviewed.

146. One delegation referred to Assembly Resolution 50/80-B on Development of good neighbour relations among Balkan States (not included in document E/ECE/1342) and requested that ECE prepare a report/study on the development of good relations among the Balkan States particularly on the economic aspects. The delegation further stated that this was the way for ECE to make its own contribution to the discussion on the future of the Balkans which would take place at the fifty-second session of the General Assembly.

ECE contribution and follow-up to UN global programmes and conferences and to United Nations programmes designed to assist developing countries of other regions taking into account relevant General Assembly resolutions
(agenda Item 6 (d))

147. For consideration of this sub-item the Commission had before it the Executive Secretary's note contained in document E/ECE/1343.

148. Several delegations underlined the regional dimension of the follow-up to the United Nations global conferences and stated that the Commission should actively participate in this follow-up process, particularly for the International Conference on Population and Development and for the Fourth World Conference on Women.

149. Concerning the latter, several delegations emphasized the need for mainstreaming the gender perspective in the Commission's work, within its mandate and activities. One delegation stressed that such mainstreaming should be consistent with the current priority-setting exercise and be achieved within

existing resources. It also stated that the follow-up activities should focus on facilitating the implementation of the Platform for Action by national Governments which had the primary responsibility in this respect. Another delegation stressed that monitoring activities by the Commission should be conducted in cooperation with other United Nations organizations and relevant international institutions active in the region, as well as with non-governmental organizations.

150. The representative of the ECE/NGO Working Group welcomed the note of the Executive Secretary (E/ECE/1343) and underlined the importance of mainstreaming the gender perspective in all ECE areas of work, as this was already accomplished in work on women and statistics. She also emphasized the need for monitoring both the regional and global Platforms for Action and expressed satisfaction with the initiative taken by the ECE secretariat which had recently organized an inter-agency consultative meeting with a view to facilitating cooperation among intergovernmental organizations active on women's issues in the region. She also called for assistance to NGOs involved in the advancement of women in countries in transition. Another NGO noted that research and data on the gender impact of the reforms in countries in transition had revealed a dramatic loss, among women, of rights, job opportunities, economic protection and earning power. She also stated that all ECE member States should recognize this differential impact on men and women and subsequently try to prevent such development.

151. The representative of UNFPA presented the activities undertaken by this institution as a follow-up to the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD). In particular the executive board of UNFPA had adopted a new system of resources allocation by which the support to country programmes depended on needs, as measured against the achievements of the goals stated in the programme of action of the ICPD, and the economic capacity of the countries. Within this framework, the countries in transition had been accorded special status and had been allocated a specific amount of the annual UNFPA financial resources.

Medium-Term Plan
(agenda item 6(e))

152. In introducing this sub-item the Executive Secretary recalled that the draft Medium-Term Plan had been presented to the Ad Hoc Informal Meeting of the Commission and that it had subsequently been submitted to New York, with due attention having been drawn to the work of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Strategic Directions and Efficiency and to the fact that the outcome of its work might lead to changes in the Medium-Term Plan which would be proposed to the General Assembly.

153. One delegation expressed its support for the draft Medium-Term Plan as a whole, with the understanding that it would be duly adjusted after the strategic directions of the Commission's future activities had been approved, taking into account the provisions of Assembly resolution 50/80-B.

Other business
(agenda item 8)

154. The Executive Secretary informed the Commission that the tentative dates for the holding of the fifty-second session of the Commission in Geneva were 14-18 April 1997, stressing that these dates would enable timely preparations for the session in view of its special significance. He stated his intention to make full use of established ECE procedures in consultation with the Bureau of the Commission, and the deliberations of the Ad Hoc Informal Meetings of the Commission, to ensure that Commission members would be fully involved in the shaping of the agenda in good time.

Adoption of decisions
(agenda items 2-6)

155. At its seventh meeting the Commission adopted eight decisions. The full texts of all decisions adopted are contained in Chapter IV.

Adoption of the Annual Report of the Commission
(agenda item 9)

156. At its eighth meeting, on 19 April 1996, the Commission adopted its report covering the period from 12 April 1995 to 19 April 1996.

CHAPTER IV

DECISIONS ADOPTED BY THE FIFTY-FIRST SESSION OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

A (51) THE WORK OF THE COMMISSION AND ITS FUTURE ACTIVITIES

The Economic Commission for Europe,

Recalling its decisions A (50) and 1 (1995-S),

Stressing the resolution 50/11 on multilingualism adopted by the General Assembly on 25 November 1995,

Conscious of the important role of the ECE as an instrument for the implementation of the principles and aims of the United Nations Charter at the regional level,

Taking note of the Executive Secretary's Note on the programme of work for 1996-2000 (E/ECE/1341) and taking into account the summaries of the Ad hoc Informal Meetings convened since the fiftieth session by the Chairperson in accordance with decision P (45),

Taking also into account the present situation of the ECE budget for the 1996-1997 biennium in the context of the United Nations financial difficulties and the ongoing discussions on the reform of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system,

Recalling its previous decisions inviting the Executive Secretary to initiate preparations for the fiftieth anniversary of the creation of the Economic Commission for Europe to be commemorated in 1997,

Stressing the importance of adapting ECE activities to new realities in the ECE region taking into account the needs and priorities of all countries in the region, including the countries in transition, and the increasing role of the private sector as well as the budget capacity and the need for savings,

Recalling the contribution of the ECE in preparing global conferences and their programmes of action,

Mindful of the request of the Committee on Agriculture at its forty-sixth session that the Commission take a final decision on its future work in the field of agriculture and the lack of available resources;

1. Reaffirms its determination, pending the decisions of its fifty-second session on the outcome of the work of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Strategic Directions and Efficiency, to continue to implement decisions O (45) and P (45), requests its subsidiary bodies to continue to carry out the provisions of decision O (45) when reviewing and carrying out their programmes of work and further requests the Executive Secretary to continue to implement the provisions and recommendations contained in decisions O (45) and P (45) where the work of the secretariat is concerned;

2. Approves its programme of work for 1996-1997 and endorses, in principle, subject to review at its fifty-second session, its programme of work for 1996-2000;

3. Notes the Executive Secretary's note (E/ECE/1342) on the implications of Resolutions of the General Assembly and of ECOSOC for the work of the ECE and his note on ECE's contribution and follow up to UN global programmes and conferences (E/ECE/1343) and requests the Executive Secretary to continue the ongoing work in these fields and to consult member States before taking any new initiatives on the Commission's contribution to forthcoming or recent global conferences or international years pending the decisions of its fifty-second session on the outcome of the work of the Ad hoc Working Group on Strategic Directions and Efficiency;

4. Calls on the Principal Subsidiary Bodies to take into account the mainstreaming of a gender perspective, where appropriate, while defining and implementing their work programmes;

5. Welcomes the Executive Secretary's Note (E/ECE/1334) on cooperation and coordination of activities with other organizations and institutions and sub-regional groupings active in the region and their participation in relevant ECE meetings;

6. Takes note with appreciation of the Summary Document prepared by the secretariat (E/ECE/1336) and the report of the Chairman of the Commission on his consultations with the bureau of the Principal Subsidiary Bodies (E/ECE/1335);

7. Stresses the importance of continuing policies aimed at further liberalization and expansion of trade including market access and market competitiveness among the countries of the ECE region and in particular among western countries and countries in transition and invites the Committee on the Development of Trade to continue its work in this domain;

8. Takes note of the Executive Secretary's note (E/ECE/1330) and the suggestions contained therein on the commemoration of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Economic Commission for Europe and invites the Executive Secretary to finalize in close cooperation with the Bureau of the Commission and the member States the preparations for the Session and to report to an Ad hoc informal meeting of the Commission;

9. Takes also note of the report of the Executive Secretary (E/ECE/1340) on cooperation in the field of human settlements;

10. Notes the interim report of the Ad hoc Working Group on Strategic Directions and Efficiency set up by decision 1 (1995-S) adopted by its Special Session of 20 September 1995, urges a prompt response to the questionnaire prepared by the Ad hoc Working Group and addressed to ECE Governments to seek their views on the review process and requests the Ad hoc Working Group to finalize its deliberations as soon as possible in order to prepare a Declaration on Strengthening of economic cooperation in Europe to be adopted by its fifty-second Jubilee session in 1997;

11. Takes note of the ECE regular budget for the biennium 1996-1997 as approved by the General Assembly and of the financial crisis of the United Nations and invites the Executive Secretary to examine carefully its implications on both professional and general service posts and to take action to fill the vacancies taking due account of established priorities in ECE and requests him to provide regular information on the deployment of resources both under the regular budget and from extra-budgetary contributions to Permanent Missions in Geneva and to the Principal Subsidiary Bodies and further invites the Executive Secretary to consult member States on any changes in its programme activities for the biennium 1996-1997 in the light of the proposals of the Secretary-General (document A/C.5/50/57) subject to their approval by the General Assembly;

12. Requests its Principal Subsidiary Bodies to consider further measures aimed at rationalization of their proceedings, with the view to making optimal use of available resources;

13. Decides to suspend the activities of the Committee on Agriculture and to retain only ECE work on Standardization of perishable produce, to be transferred for the time being to the Committee on the Development of Trade, and on Agricultural Statistics, to be transferred for the time being to the Conference of European Statisticians pending the decisions of its fifty-second session on the future of the Committee on Agriculture;

14. Requests the Executive Secretary to transmit this decision as well as other decisions of this session, together with the views expressed or agreed in relation thereto by member Governments, to the Principal Subsidiary Bodies concerned and requests them to take these into account in their work and when reviewing their respective programmes.

7th meeting
18 April 1996
(see para. 32 above)

B (51) PARTICIPATION OF THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY IN THE ACTIVITIES OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

The Economic Commission for Europe,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 50/106, dated 20 December 1995 on business and development,

Noting with satisfaction the interest and participation of the business community, national and regional industrial associations in sectoral programmes of the ECE such as industry and technology, transport, trade facilitation, energy and, in particular, construction of vehicles, EDIFACT and the activities of the Gas Centre and the Energy Efficiency 2000 project as well as their direct financial support for the implementation of relevant ECE programmes through contributions to respective trust funds,

Welcoming the convening of the Round Table Conference on cooperation and sustainable industrial development held at the present session of the ECE with active participation of the private sector and taking note of other experience accumulated by the Commission in cooperating with the business community,

Aware of the need for increased private sector involvement in the activities of the ECE, inter alia in assisting the transition process in interested member States,

1. Invites member States and requests the Executive Secretary to encourage, to the greatest extent practicable, business community participation in execution of the ECE mandate through developing its closer cooperation with relevant PSBs and trust funds,

2. Requests the Executive Secretary to take the necessary steps to improve the management of extra-budgetary funds contributed by the business community through the preparation of relevant administrative guidelines and appropriate selection of projects to be financed from these funds, in a manner which will encourage further business community involvement and cooperation,

3. Also requests the Executive Secretary to explore, in consultations with the governments of the member States and representatives of the business community, the feasibility of a more consistent framework of cooperation with the business community with particular attention to the interests of emerging private sector in the countries in transition,

4. Takes note with interest of the note by the Executive Secretary on sustainable industrial development (E/ECE/1327) regarding the facilitation of relations of the ECE and the business community and development of industrial cooperation in the region,

5. Welcomes the discussion held during the Round Table Conference on sustainable industrial development and decides to consider its conclusions,

6. Requests the Executive Secretary to study possible mechanisms for enhancing NGO and business community involvement in the ECE activities, with due regard to similar arrangements already in place with the ECOSOC, UNCTAD and other relevant United Nations bodies and to make proposals for its further development, to be presented to the fifty-second session of the Commission.

7th meeting
18 April 1996
(see para. 33 above)

C (51) DIVERSIFICATION OF FORMS AND METHODS OF THE COMMISSION'S ACTIVITIES DESIGNED TO ASSIST COUNTRIES OF THE REGION IN TRANSITION TO A MARKET ECONOMY AND THEIR INTEGRATION WITH THE EUROPEAN AND GLOBAL ECONOMY

The Economic Commission for Europe,

Recalling the General Assembly resolutions 48/181, 49/106, 50/120 and ECOSOC resolution 1995/51,

Reaffirming its decisions B (48), B (49), B (50), C (50) and other relevant decisions,

Mindful of the valuable role of the ECE in assisting countries in transition in particular through the programme of workshops, seminars, providing expertise and consultative services and other similar activities on transition issues organized under the ECE auspices,

Also mindful of the need to undertake all possible steps to avoid duplication with other international organizations active in this field,

Acknowledging the contribution of the ECE Regional Advisory Services Programme to the acceleration of the process of economic reforms in countries in transition,

Also acknowledging the importance of further diversification of forms and methods of the Commission's activities designed to assist countries in transition to a market economy and their integration with the European and global economy,

1. Takes note with satisfaction of the note by the Executive Secretary on diversification of forms and methods of the Commission's activities designed to assist the integration of the countries in transition into the European and global economy (E/ECE/1328);

2. Supports the efforts of the Executive Secretary to diversify within the ECE mandate the forms and methods of the ECE activities to assist countries in transition and invites him to continue the ongoing work to this end, pending the decisions of its fifty-second session on the outcome of the work of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Strategic Directions and Efficiency;

3. Takes note of the work done by the secretariat on preparing the list of experts and specialists in the problems of privatization and transition of different sectors of economy to market conditions, whose services could be provided to interested countries in transition and requests the Executive Secretary to carry on this work with the view to making the list more complete and more practical;

4. Supports the efforts of the Executive Secretary to cooperate with the Joint Vienna Institute (JVI), the European Training Foundation and ILO/Turin Centre and other institutions in providing management training for the countries in transition and invites him to continue his consultations with these organizations on the appropriate contribution of ECE to their training programmes;

5. Invites the Executive Secretary to consult the UN Programmes and funds and the international financial institutions on their possible contribution to the ECE activities of special interest to the countries in transition;

6. Further requests the Executive Secretary to continue consultations on data collection and data sharing on foreign direct investment opportunities in cooperation with the World Bank, EBRD and other relevant institutions as well as with the business community as a means to foster foreign direct investment into countries in transition and to elaborate a Guide to Investment Promotion Practice taking into account the work done by other international organizations in this field;

7. Takes note with satisfaction of the cooperation established between the ECE secretariat and the European Commission aimed at implementation of projects identified by countries in transition in the framework of the EU PHARE and TACIS programmes and invites the Executive Secretary to continue consultations with the European Commission so as to determine the possibility of further cooperation in providing assistance to economies in transition;

8. Welcomes the report of the Executive Secretary E/ECE/1329, and reiterates the need to focus the ECE Regional Advisory Services Programme (RASP) on complementing the activities of the ECE in favour of the countries in transition and invites the Executive Secretary to consult with member States on allocation of the funds made available for RASP;

9. Reiterates its request to the Executive Secretary to address, in appropriate form, the Secretary-General of the United Nations with a request to allocate adequate resources within the existing United Nations regular budget for the implementation of the RASP;

10. Confirms the importance of continuing the programme of workshops and seminars on the subjects of practical importance to countries in transition in the ECE region, and invites the member States and international organizations to continue and increase their support for the ECE workshops series;

11. Expresses appreciation to the donors of the Trust Fund for Assistance to Countries in Transition (TFACT) for their financial assistance through the TFACT to the countries in transition to ensure the participation of their representatives in the ECE programme of workshops and seminars and invites Governments of the member countries, relevant international organizations and institutions as well as other potential donors to make contributions to TFACT;

12. Reiterates its recommendation to the Secretary-General of the United Nations to consider the possibility of using ECE as a focal point of facilitating within the framework of the appropriate arrangements to be made within the United Nations Secretariat the promotion and enhancing of mutual cooperation with UN global programmes, organs and specialized agencies and within their respective mandates;

13. Requests the Executive Secretary to submit to the fifty-second session of the Commission a report on the implementation of this decision.

7th meeting
18 April 1996
(see para. 50 above)

D (51) STRENGTHENING OF COOPERATION BETWEEN THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE AND THE ORGANIZATION ON SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE

The Economic Commission for Europe,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 47/10, 48/19, 49/13 and 50/87 concerning cooperation between the United Nations and the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe,

Mindful of global fiscal realities and their implications for the resources available to the United Nations,

Reaffirming its decision F (50) on strengthening of cooperation between ECE and the OSCE,

Mindful of the Framework for cooperation and coordination between the United Nations Secretariat and the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, signed on 26 May 1993,

Bearing in mind the conclusions of the OSCE Economic Dimension Implementation Review Meeting held in Geneva on 22-23 January 1996 and commending the preparation by the ECE secretariat for this Meeting of a comprehensive background document on implementation of the Document of the Bonn Conference of 1990 on Economic Cooperation in Europe,

Reiterating its intention to play a more effective role within the sphere of its competence in assisting countries in transition,

Aware of the importance of maintaining and improving coordination between ECE and the OSCE Economic Forum and with relevant OSCE bodies,

1. Takes note of the report of the Executive Secretary on the activities of the Economic Commission for Europe to implement the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) and other relevant CSCE documents (E/ECE/1333) and commends the proposals contained therein on cooperation between the secretariat of the ECE and the secretariat of the OSCE to promote the implementation of the pertinent conclusions of the OSCE meetings;

2. Considers that cooperation between ECE and the OSCE could be strengthened, within existing resources, along the following lines:

- continuation of regular consultations between the two organizations at the level of the Executive Secretary of ECE and the Secretary-General of the OSCE on the matters of implementation of economic dimension commitments contained in the OSCE documents and in particular to the preparation and the follow-up of the meetings of the OSCE Economic Forum;

- cooperation in the organization of workshops and seminars identified by the Economic Forum on economic dimension subjects including investment promotion and investment regimes in the countries in transition;

- elaboration by ECE of early warning indicators of the economic situation through provision of timely and topical statistics and economic analysis, while taking into account the work being done by other international organizations in this field, thus enabling OSCE to detect risks of tension which could endanger stability and security in the region,

3. Requests the Executive Secretary to take the necessary steps to ensure the ECE contribution to the follow-up of the Fourth Meeting of the Economic Forum;

4. Calls upon its Subsidiary Bodies to contribute in appropriate manner to the practical follow-up of the Fourth Meeting of the OSCE Economic Forum in line with the role recognized to the UN/ECE by paragraph 15 of the Budapest Summit Declaration;

5. Also requests the Executive Secretary to consult the OSCE Secretary-General on further strengthening the cooperation between ECE and the OSCE in the implementation of the pertinent provisions of the CSCE/OSCE documents relating to the strengthening of economic cooperation in the region, assistance to the countries in transition as well as to the economic security in the region;

6. Further requests the Executive Secretary to report on the progress of implementation of this decision to the fifty-second session of the Commission.

7th meeting
18 April 1996
(see para. 84 above)

E (51) ECONOMIC COOPERATION IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

The Economic Commission for Europe,

Reaffirming its decision D (50) and its prior decisions adopted on economic cooperation in the Mediterranean,

Noting the growing awareness of the need for joint efforts by all Mediterranean countries to strengthen economic, social, cultural and environmental cooperation and to promote stability and peace in the Mediterranean region in the light of the Final Act of the CSCE, the Charter of Paris for a New Europe, the 1992 Helsinki Document and the 1994 Budapest Document, the Stability Pact for the Mediterranean, and the IPU Conference of Security and Cooperation in the Mediterranean held in Malta in November 1995,

Noting also the agreement reached in the Euro-Mediterranean Conference held in Barcelona in November 1995, where the participants identified political, economic and social guidelines for a Euro-Mediterranean partnership,

1. Takes note with satisfaction of the Executive Secretary's report (E/ECE/1333) on Activities of the ECE to implement the pertinent provisions of the Final Act of the CSCE and other CSCE/OSCE documents, including the Charter of Paris for a New Europe, the 1992 Helsinki Document and the 1994 Budapest Document, as well as economic cooperation in the Mediterranean in the light of the Final Act of the CSCE, and particularly Part II of the report pertaining to economic cooperation in the Mediterranean;

2. Takes note of the decision adopted at the Fifth Meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council in December 1995 where the non-participating States of the Mediterranean were recognized as Mediterranean partners for cooperation;

3. Takes note with satisfaction of the recognition given by the OSCE at the Budapest Summit of December 1994 to the role played by the ECE and other relevant international organizations and institutions in support of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean as an important factor for stability in the OSCE region;

4. Takes note also of the participation of the ECE in all relevant meetings of the OSCE dealing with economic cooperation including those in the Mediterranean region;

5. Welcomes the activities undertaken by the secretariat addressing Mediterranean questions as elaborated in Commission document E/ECE/1333;

6. Calls upon the Executive Secretary as previously requested to continue undertaking action-oriented analysis of existing cooperation between ECE Mediterranean countries, and to identify effective means of enhancing economic cooperation in the Mediterranean, as well as between Mediterranean and other ECE member countries, in all areas of the ECE programme of work, within existing resources, for consideration by the Principal Subsidiary Bodies and the Working Parties of the Commission in their programme of work;

7. Further calls upon member States to assist the Commission in its current activities on the analysis of macroeconomic and sectoral policies with a view to taking into account the Mediterranean dimension of the ECE;

8. Requests the Executive Secretary to continue to cooperate with the Executive Secretaries of the other regional commissions concerned, as well as heads of other relevant United Nations bodies in order to secure interaction with Mediterranean partners for cooperation, with a view to increasing interregional cooperation on the subjects within the competence of the ECE and which are of common interest to the Mediterranean countries;

9. Takes note of the report submitted by the ECE at the 1995 ECOSOC Substantive Session (E/1995/46) regarding the project of the Europe-Africa permanent link through the straits of Gibraltar, and also of resolution E/1995/48, which asked the ECE Executive Secretary to present a report on the project to the 1997 ECOSOC Substantive Session;

10. Calls upon Mediterranean countries to work closely with the ECE and OSCE to intensify the dialogue with the Mediterranean partners for cooperation through seminars and to intensify their common links by the implementation of specific projects for the Mediterranean region, and invites the Executive Secretary to cooperate with the informal open-ended contact group, OSCE Permanent Council in Vienna, pursuant to the decision on the Mediterranean adopted at the Budapest Summit 1994;

11. Calls upon the ECE to cooperate with the OSCE in the organization of workshops and seminars identified by the OSCE on economic cooperation subjects that are devoted to Mediterranean questions with the Mediterranean partners for cooperation;

12. Welcomes the adoption of the Declaration by the Mediterranean countries and the European Union at the Euro-Mediterranean Conference of Barcelona of November 1995 and invites the Executive Secretary to explore the possibility of EU funding, envisaged in the Economic and Financial Partnership dimension of the Work Plan of the Barcelona Conference, to develop and to assist in the implementation of projects in areas such as trade facilitation, environment, transport, statistics and energy which are supported by the Mediterranean countries;

13. Requests the Executive Secretary to report to the fifty-second session on the implementation of this decision.

7th meeting
18 April 1996
(see para. 85 above)

F (51) COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The Economic Commission for Europe,

Recalling its decision G (50) on cooperation in the field of environment and sustainable development,

Reaffirming that environmental cooperation is a priority activity of the ECE,

Recognizing the need to ensure that policies in all sectors are consistent with sustainable development,

1. Underlines the importance of cooperation of the ECE with subregional institutions and international organizations having activities in the field of environment;

2. Stresses the need for Principle Subsidiary Bodies to better integrate as appropriate environment and sustainable development considerations into their activities and decision-making;

3. Welcomes the outcome of the Third Ministerial Conference "Environment for Europe", held in Sofia (Bulgaria) on 23-25 October 1995 and notes with appreciation its acknowledgement of the important role of ECE in overseeing the "Environment for Europe" process in close cooperation with the relevant agencies, and the tasks given to the Committee on Environmental Policy in that regard;

4. Calls upon all its Subsidiary Bodies as appropriate to contribute to the implementation of the Environmental Programme for Europe;

5. Endorses the establishment of the Ad hoc Preparatory Working Group of Senior Officials with the aim of streamlining the Environment for Europe process and preparation of the 1998 Ministerial Conference in Denmark and equally endorses the establishment of the Ad hoc Working Group for the preparation of a draft Convention on Access to Environmental Information and Public Participation in environmental decision making;

6. Expresses its satisfaction with the manner in which the Committee on Environmental Policy conducted its first National Environmental Performance Review and invites the Committee to continue its efforts to extend the system to the non-OECD countries of the ECE region;

7. Takes note of the work under way in the Preparatory Committee for the Regional Conference on Transport and the Environment to take place in Vienna, if possible during the second week of November 1997, under the auspices of the ECE;

8 Calls once more upon all ECE member States and the European Community to consider, if they have not already done so, the earliest possible ratification of or accession to, as appropriate, the following ECE conventions:

- Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution,
- Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context,
- Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents,
- Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes,

9. Calls upon all ECE member States and the European Community to consider ratification of or accession to the NOx and VOC protocols and to consider signature, ratification of or accession to, as appropriate, the Protocol on Further Reductions of Sulphur Emissions under the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution;

10. Furthermore calls upon all ECE member States and the European Community to actively support the elaboration of the new NOx Protocol and the Protocols on heavy metals and persistent organic pollutants (POPs) decided upon by the Executive Body of the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution;

11. Invites the ECE member States, intergovernmental organizations, international financial institutions and other potential donors to consider the financial and technical needs of the countries in transition in implementing the provisions of the above-mentioned Conventions and Protocols;

12. Pending the decisions of its fifty-second session on the outcome of work of the Ad hoc Working Group on Strategic Directions and Efficiency requests the Executive Secretary to continue to provide the resources already allocated to the ECE's environmental activities according to the priority of those activities as determined by the Committee on Environmental Policy and provide member States with detailed and timely information on the allocation of these resources;

13. Finally requests the Executive Secretary to report to its fifty-second session on the action he will have taken to implement this decision.

7th meeting
18 April 1996
(see para. 101 above)

G (51) COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF TRANSPORT

The Economic Commission for Europe,

Recalling its decisions O (45), G (49) and H (50),

Reiterating the continued high priority of the work of the Commission on the enhanced harmonization of technical requirements for safe and efficient transportation of persons and goods, the

facilitation of cross border transport operations, the continued development of coherent transport networks and the intensified general cooperation in the field of transport,

Conscious of the difficulties of countries in transition in developing market economy mechanisms in the field of transport especially with a view to the establishment of sound legal frameworks in the transport sector and economically sound activities of the private sector in this field,

Underlining the need for ECE to contribute to the implementation of harmonized and coordinated transport policy concepts for the region in close cooperation with the European Union, ECMT, subregional groupings and governmental as well as non-governmental organizations dealing with transport issues so as to avoid duplication of work,

Stressing the continuing importance of ECE in matters of regional transport cooperation, even under circumstances of growing financial constraints and necessary rationalization,

1. Takes note with appreciation of the report and the conclusions of the fifty-eighth session of the Inland Transport Committee;

2. Welcomes the action being taken as follow-up of the second Pan-European Transport Conference and the constructive participation of the secretariat in the preparation of the third conference scheduled for June 1997;

3. Takes note of the interim report of the Preparatory Committee for the Regional Conference on Transport and Environment and encourages the Committee to continue its work on the basis of the Draft Guidelines for a Common Strategy on Transport and the Environment and to propose draft final documents for adoption by the Conference taking into account the options currently under consideration;

4. Decides to hold the Conference in Vienna, if possible during the second week of November 1997;

5. Requests the Preparatory Committee to submit the final report on the results, especially with regard to the organization, draft agenda, basic documentation and final documents to its fifty-second session to enable it to take decisions on substantive and formal questions;

6. Underlines the necessity of an urgent revision of the provisions of the Customs Convention on the International Transport of Goods under Cover of TIR Carnets and urges Contracting Parties to the Convention to agree on immediate amendments to the Convention wherever consensus exists before the completion of other elements of the revision, calls upon all Contracting Parties to the Convention to actively participate in the revision process and endorses the decisions of the Inland Transport Committee with regard to the possibilities to strengthen human resources for the respective work in the secretariat;

7. Takes note of the development of discussions concerning the second stage of the revision of the 1958 Agreement concerning the adoption of uniform conditions of approval and reciprocal recognition of approval for motor vehicle equipment and parts with regard to additional modifications of the Agreement as a global instrument;

8. Welcomes the completion of the European Agreement on Main Inland Waterways of International Importance (AGN) and invites member States to consider signature of the Agreement in Geneva between 1 October 1996 and 30 September 1997;

9. Urges member States to determine the legal form of the regulations on combined transport on inland waterways, possibly including coastal shipping and to adopt the legal instrument at the next session of the Committee;

10. Endorses the decisions of the Inland Transport Committee concerning the establishment of the International Working Group for the elaboration of a draft European Agreement for the transport of dangerous goods by inland waterways;

11. Welcomes the results achieved in the implementation of the road (TEM) and rail (TER) infrastructure projects and underlines the importance of their further development by countries participating in TEM and TER in close cooperation with other ECE member States, the European Union and relevant non-governmental institutions;

12. Welcomes the decisions of the Inland Transport Committee aimed at intensifying assistance to countries in transition, while calling on the secretariat to ensure close cooperation with the European Union, international organizations and institutions providing also assistance to these countries in order to achieve better coordination and to avoid duplication of efforts;

13. Reiterates the necessity to fill, within existing or even fewer resources as soon as possible the vacant post in the Transport Division for the work in the section responsible for matters of transport of dangerous goods;

14. Calls upon the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission at its fifty-second session on the implementation of this decision.

7th meeting
18 April 1996
(see para. 107 above)

H (51) COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF ENERGY

The Economic Commission for Europe,

Recalling its decision I (50) and the decision O (45) identifying the priority issues for the ECE,

Noting the significance of energy in growth and economic development and the need to promote sustainable development of the energy sector,

Underlining the importance of energy related issues in regional cooperation in particular as regards the assistance to countries in transition,

Recalling the requests of a number of member countries to consider energy as a priority area of work and to foster the cooperation in energy among the ECE member States,

Conscious that ECE's work programme in the field of energy provides fora where all member States, the private sector and the relevant institutions and non-governmental organizations could interact on a regular basis to discuss energy issues and to promote cooperation in the field of energy,

1. Takes note of the report of the Executive Secretary (E/ECE/1339) on cooperation in the field of energy as well as the report and the conclusions of the fifth session of the Committee on Energy;

2 Invites the Committee on Energy:

- to mobilize the support of the private sector to assist countries in transition through extra-budgetary activities such as the Gas Centre, Energy Efficiency 2000 Project and the clean coal implementation programme;

- to cooperate and collaborate with other regional institutions, sub-regional groupings and non-governmental organizations active in the sphere of energy within the ECE region with a view to ensuring best use of available resources and complementarities;

- to continue its work on the development of international standards and norms in the energy sector;

- to streamline the work of the Committee on Energy with those of its subsidiary bodies and to focus its programme of work in order to facilitate its implementation;

3. Requests the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission at its fifty-second session on the implementation of this decision.

7th meeting
18 April 1996
(see para. 115 above)

ANNEX I

STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF ACTIONS AND PROPOSALS OF THE COMMISSION

(TO BE ABSORBED WITHIN THE EXISTING BUDGETARY PROVISIONS)

nil

ANNEX II

LIST OF MEETINGS OF THE COMMISSION'S SUBSIDIARY BODIES IN 1995/96

Body and officers		Session	Symbol of report
THE COMMISSION			
Ad hoc Informal Meeting of the Commission		13 June 1995	ECE/AC.20/95(3)/1
Chairperson:	Mr. R. Neagu (Romania)	13 September 1995	ECE/AC.20/95(4)/1
		29 January 1996	ECE/AC.20/96(1)/1
		3 April 1996	ECE/AC.20/96(2)/1
Preparatory Committee of the 1996 Regional Conference on Transport and the Environment		5th session 8-11 May 1995	ECE/RCTE/PC/21
Chairman:	Mr. S. Schimming (Germany)	6th session 4-6 September 1995	ECE/RCTE/PC/33
Vice-Chairmen:	Mr. G. Gauvin (France)		
	Mr. V. Donchenko (Russian Federation)	7th session 20-22 November 1995	ECE/RCTE/PC/36
		8th session 5-6 February 1996	ECE/RCTE/PC/40
Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution			
Executive Body for the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution		13th session 28 November- 1 December 1995	ECE/EB.AIR/46
Chairman:	Mr. J. Thompson (Norway)		
Vice-Chairmen:	Mr. J. Beale (United States)		
	Mr. L. Björkbom (Sweden)		
	Mr. H. Haider (Austria)		
	Mr. R. Mills (United Kingdom)		
	Mr. J. Zurek (Poland)		
Steering Body to the Cooperative Programme for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Long-range Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe (EMEP)		19th session 4-6 September 1995	EB.AIR/GE.1/26
Chairman:	Mr. E. Weber (Germany)		
Vice-Chairmen:	Mr. I. Allegrini (Italy)		
	Mr. R. Gehrig (Switzerland)		
	Mr. N.Z. Heidam (Denmark)		
	Ms. M. Lesnjak (Slovenia)		
	Ms. G. Mitosek (Poland)		

Body and officers		Session	Symbol of report
Working Group on Effects		14th session 10-12 July 1995	EB.AIR/WG.1/24
Chairman:	Mr. K. Bull (United Kingdom)		
Vice-Chairmen:	Mr. B. Achermann (Switzerland) Mr. G. Fenech (Canada) Mr. R. Guardans (Spain) Mr. J. Kämäri (Finland) Mrs. E. Marchwinska (Poland)		
Working Group on Strategies		15th session 28-31 August 1995	EB.AIR/WG.5/32
Chairman:	Mr. L. Bjorkbom (Sweden)		
Vice-Chairmen:	Mr. D. Coppins (Ireland) Mr. W. Draper (Canada) Mr. D. Hrcek (Slovenia) Mr. H. Vygen (Germany)	16th session 19-22 February 1996	EB.AIR/WG.5/34
Ad Hoc Preparatory Working Group on Persistent Organic Pollutants		2nd session 3-5 July 1995	EB.AIR/WG.7/4
Chairman:	Mr. D.Stone (Canada)		
Vice-Chairmen:	Mr. R. Guardans (Spain) Mr. L. Lindau (Sweden) Mr. V. Sokolovsky (Russian Federation) Mr. M. Williams (United Kingdom)		
Ad Hoc Preparatory Working Group on Heavy Metals		2nd session 5-7 July 1995	EB.AIR/WG.8/4
Chairman:	Mr. D. Jost (Germany)		
Vice-Chairman:	Mr. M. Fara (Czech Republic)		
	ENVIRONMENT		
Committee on Environmental Policy		2nd session 29-31 May 1995	ECE/CEP/14 + Add.1
Chairman:	Mr. K. Bärlund (Finland)		
Vice-Chairmen:	Mr. W. Kakebeeke (Netherlands) Mr. V. Kostin (Russian Federation) Mr. D. Mount (United States) Mr. B. Natov (Bulgaria) Mrs. B. Quincy (France) Mr. I. Tokes (Hungary)		
Chairman:	Mr. I. Tokes (Hungary)	Special session 17 January 1996	ECE/CEP/18
Working Group of Senior Governmental Officials "Environment for Europe"		5th session 31 May-2 June 1995	CEP/WG.1/7
Chairman:	Mr. W. Kakebeeke (Netherlands)	6th session 31 July-3 August 1995	CEP/WG.1/9
Vice-Chairman:	Mr. B. Natov (Bulgaria)		

Body and officers		Session	Symbol of report
Chairman:	Mr. W. Kakebeeke (Netherlands)	7th session 11-12 September 1995	CEP/WG.1/11
Vice-Chairman:	Mr. O. Velev (Bulgaria)		
Joint Working Group on Environment and Economics		6th session 24-25 January 1996	CEP/WG.2/4 EC.AD/WG.1/12
Chairman:	Mr. V. Gejdos (Czech Republic)		
Vice-Chairman:	Mr. N.A. Braathen (Norway)		
Meeting of the Signatories to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context		5th meeting 19-21 March 1996	CEP/WG.3/4
Chairman:	Mr. T. Lind (Norway)		
Vice-Chairman:	Mr. S. Guber (Ukraine)		
Meeting of the Signatories to the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents		5th meeting 31 January-2 February 1996	CEP/WG.4/4
Chairman:	Mr. J. Zurek (Poland)		
Vice-Chairmen:	Mr. E. Berger (Switzerland)		
	Mr. B. Szakal (Hungary)		
Working Party on Water Problems		9th session 5-7 March 1996	CEP/WP.1/4
Chairman:	Mr. M. Varela (Spain)		
Vice-Chairmen:	Mrs. L. Kauppi (Finland)		
	Mr. C. de Villeneuve (Netherlands)		
	Mr. V. Ropot (Republic of Moldova)		
	Mr. V. Kukovyakin (Russian Federation)		
Seminar on the Prevention and Control of Groundwater Pollution from the Storage of Chemicals and from Waste Disposal		11-15 September 1995 Madrid (Spain)	CEP/SEM.1/3
Chairman:	Mr. M. Varela (Spain)		
Vice-Chairman:	Mr. M. Matuska (Slovakia)		
	TRANSPORT		
Inland Transport Committee		58th session 15-19 January 1996	ECE/TRANS/116 and Add.1
Chairman:	Mr. A. Suvorov (Russian Federation)		
Vice-Chairman:	Mr. H. Courtois (Belgium)		
Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics		Ad Hoc session 26-28 June 1995	TRANS/WP.5/16
Chairman:	Mr. E. Sammartino (Italy)	8th session 27-29 September 1995	TRANS/WP.5/18
Vice-Chairman:	Mr. W. Dörries (Germany)		

Body and officers		Session	Symbol of report
Working Party on Transport Statistics		46th session 1-3 November 1995	TRANS/WP.6/129 CES/AC.62/81
Chairman:	Mr. E. Grib (Denmark)		
Working Party on the Transport of Perishable Foodstuffs		51st session 13-16 November 1995	TRANS/WP.11/192
Chairman:	Mr. M. de Clippel (Belgium)		
Vice-Chairman:	Mr. M. Eilsoe (Denmark)		
Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods		56th session 15-19 May 1995	TRANS/WP.15/134
Chairman:	Mr. E. Berson (France)		
Vice-Chairman:	Mr. J. Franco (Portugal)		
Chairman:	Mr. E. Berson (France)	57th (special) session 23-24 August 1995	TRANS/WP.15/136
Vice-Chairman:	Mr. K. Ridder (Germany)		
Chairman:	Mr. E. Berson (France)	58th session 23-27 October 1995	TRANS/WP.15/138
Vice-Chairman:	Mr. J. Franco (Portugal)		
Joint Meeting of the RID Safety Committee and the Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods		2-6 October 1995	TRANS/WP.15/ AC.1/62
Chairman:	Mr. F. Lohrmann (Germany)		
Vice-Chairman:	Mr. A. Johansen (Norway)		
Chairman:	Mr. A. Johansen (Norway)	11-15 March 1996	TRANS/WP.15/ AC.1/64
Vice-Chairman:	Mr. H. Rein (Germany)		
Working Party on Combined Transport		22nd session 20-21 April 1995	TRANS/WP.24/65
Chairman:	Mr. H. Maillard (Belgium)		
		23rd session 31 August-1 September 1995	TRANS/WP.24/67
		24th session 25-26 March 1996	TRANS/WP.24/69
Working Party on the Construction of Vehicles		106th session 27-30 June 1995	TRANS/WP.29/468
Chairman:	Mr. V. Koutenev (Russian Federation)	107th session 7-10 November 1995	TRANS/WP.29/482
Vice-Chairman:	Mr. B. Gauvin (France)		
		108th session 12-15 March 1996	TRANS/WP.29/487
Meeting of Experts on Noise		23rd session 18-19 September 1995	TRANS/WP.29/ GRB/21
Chairman:	Mr. H. Löffelholz (Germany)		
		24th session 26-29 February 1996	TRANS/WP.29/ GRB/22

Body and officers		Session	Symbol of report
Meeting of Experts on Lighting and Light-signalling		35th session 23-27 October 1995 Lippstadt (Germany)	TRANS/WP.29/ GRE/35
Chairman:	Mr. G. Meekel (Netherlands)	36th session 1-4 April 1996	TRANS/WP.29/ GRE/36
Meeting of Experts on Pollution and Energy		30th session 10-13 July 1995	TRANS/WP.29/ GRPE/30
Chairman:	Mr. B. Gauvin (France)	31st session 16-19 January 1996	TRANS/WP.29/ GRPE/31
Meeting of Experts on Brakes and Running Gear		37th session 19-22 September 1995	TRANS/WP.29/ GRRF/37
Chairman:	Mr. M. Fendick (United Kingdom)	38th session 18-20 December 1995	TRANS/WP.29/ GRRF/38
		39th session 5-9 February 1996	TRANS/WP.29/ GRRF/39
Meeting of Experts on General Safety Provisions		68th session 10-13 April 1995	TRANS/WP.29/ GRSG/47
Chairman:	Mr. J. Martin (Luxembourg)	69th session 30 October- 1 November 1995	TRANS/WP.29/ GRSG/48
Meeting of Experts on Passive Safety		17th session 15-19 May 1995	TRANS/WP.29/ GRSP/17
Chairman:	Mr. C. Lomonaco (Italy)	18th session 27 November- 1 December 1995	TRANS/WP.29/ GRSP/18
Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport		82nd session 17-20 October 1995	TRANS/WP.30/164
Chairman:	Mr. R. Ehmcke (Germany)		
Chairman: **Vice-Chairman:**	Mr. R. Ehmcke (Germany) Mrs. Y. Kasikçi (Turkey)	83rd session 27 February-1 March 1996	TRANS/WP.30/166
Administrative Committee for the TIR Convention 1975		18th session 19-20 October 1995	TRANS/WP.30/ AC.2/37
Chairman: **Vice-Chairman:**	Mr. G.-H. Bauer (Switzerland) Mr. J. Ille (Czech Republic)		
Principal Working Party on Road Transport		89th session 30 October- 1 November 1995	TRANS/SC.1/357 + Corr.1
Chairman: **Vice-Chairman:**	Mr. S. Schimming (Germany) Mr. J. Alaluusua (Finland)		

Body and officers		Session	Symbol of report
Ad Hoc Meeting on Implementation of the European Agreement on Main International Traffic Arteries (AGR)		14th meeting 6-7 June 1995	TRANS/SC.1/ AC.5/28
Chairman:	Mr. E. Sammartino (Italy)		
Working Party on Road Traffic Safety		25th session 25-29 September 1995	TRANS/SC.1/ WP.1/50
Chairman:	Mr. J. Jenssen (Norway)		
Vice-Chairmen:	Mr. V. Spicka (Czech Republic) Mr. R. Jones (United Kingdom)	26th session 25-29 March 1996	TRANS/SC.1/ WP.1/52
Chairman:	Mr. R. Jones (United Kingdom)	27th session 25-29 March 1996	TRANS/SC.1/ WP.1/52
Vice-Chairmen:	Mr. J. Busstra (Netherlands) Mr. V. Spicka (Czech Republic)		
Principal Working Party on Rail Transport		49th session 16-18 October 1995	TRANS/SC.2/184
Chairman:	Mr. F. Gudin (France)		
Vice-Chairman:	Mr. G. Pellicano (Italy)		
Principal Working Party on Inland Water Transport		1st Ad Hoc Session 26-28 April 1995	TRANS/SC.3/ AC.4/2
Chairman:	Mr. C. Hofhuizen (Netherlands)		
Chairman:	Mr. C. Hofhuizen (Netherlands)	39th session 24-26 October 1995	TRANS/SC.3/137
Vice-Chairman:	Mrs. V. Cucu (Romania)		
Working Party on the Standardization of Technical and Safety Requirements in Inland Navigation		10th session 14-16 June 1995	TRANS/SC.3/ WP.3/20
Chairman:	Mr. H. Van Doorn (Netherlands)		
Chairman:	Mr. D. Anissine (Russian Federation)	11th session 13-15 February 1996	TRANS/SC.3/ WP.3/22
	STATISTICS		
Conference of European Statisticians		43rd plenary session 12-15 June 1995	ECE/CES/48 + CES/1995/R.25 & Adds.1-6
Chairman:	Mr. I. Fellegi (Canada)		
Vice-Chairmen:	Mr. P. Garonna (Italy) Mr. S. Longva (Norway) Mr. D. Murphy (Ireland) Mr. J. Olénski (Poland) Mr. Y. Yurkov (Russian Federation)		
Study Group on Food and Agricultural Statistics in Europe		22nd session 3-6 July 1995	FAO/ECE:ESS(95)-35 CES/AC.61/57
Chairman:	Mr. K. Hjulsager (Denmark)		
Vice-Chairman:	Ms. I. Oresnik (Slovenia)		

Body and officers		Session	Symbol of report
Joint ECE/IEA Meeting on Energy Statistics		2nd meeting 4-6 September 1995	CES/AC.32/65
Chairman:	Mr. G. White (United Kingdom)		
Vice-Chairman:	Ms. G. Bengtsson (Sweden)		
Joint ECE/ILO Meeting on Consumer Price Indices		20-24 November 1995	CES/AC.49/76
Chairman:	Mr. R. Turvey (United Kingdom)		
Vice-Chairman:	Mr. A. Franz (Austria)		
Working Party on Transport Statistics		46th session 1-3 November 1995	TRANS/WP.6/129 CES/AC.62/81
Chairman:	Mr. E. Grib (Denmark)		
Joint ECE/OECD Meeting on National Accounts		9-12 May 1995 OECD, Paris (France)	CES/AC.68/23
Co-Chairmen:	Mr. L. Zienskowski (Poland) OECD		
TRADE FACILITATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE			
Committee on the Development of Trade		44th session 5-7 December 1995	ECE/TRADE/199
Chairman:	Mr. M. Berinde (Romania)		
Vice-Chairman:	Mr. W. Muller (Germany)		
Working Party on Facilitation of International Trade Procedures		42nd session 18-22 September 1995	TRADE/WP.4/193
Chairman:	Mr. T. Blomfeldt (Finland)	43rd session 18-22 March 1996	TRADE/WP.4/195
Vice-Chairman:	Ms. N. Willenz-Gardner (United States)		
Meeting of Experts on Data Elements and Automatic Data Interchange		52nd session 18-20 September 1995	TRADE/WP.4/GE.1/101
Chairman:	Mr. R. Walker (United Kingdom)	53rd session 18-19 March 1996	TRADE/WP.4/GE.1/103
Vice-Chairman:	Mr. C. Chiaramonti (France)		
Meeting of Experts on Procedures and Documentation		52nd session 20 September 1995	TRADE/WP.4/GE.2/101
Chairman:	Mr. E. Goffin (Belgium)	53rd session 20 March 1996	TRADE/WP.4/GE.2/103
Vice-Chairmen:	Mr. D. Dima (Romania) Mr. F. Vuilleumier (Switzerland)		
Working Party on International Contract Practices in Industry		44th session 13-15 November 1995	TRADE/WP.5/55
Chairman:	Mr. D. Winter (United Kingdom)		
Vice-Chairman:	Mr. D. Colodeiciuc (Romania)		

Body and officers		Session	Symbol of report
ECONOMIC ANALYSIS			
Senior Economic Advisers to ECE Governments		31st session 19-23 June 1995	ECE/EC.AD/48 + Add.1
Chairman:	Mr. K. Puumanen (Finland)		
Vice-Chairmen:	Mr. I. Kosir (Slovakia) Mr. A. Swinarenko (Russian Federation)		
Joint Working Group on Environment and Economics		6th session 24-25 January 1996	CEP/WG.2/4 EC.AD/WG.1/12
Chairman:	Mr. V. Gejdos (Czech Republi ,		
Vice-Chairman:	Mr. N.A. Braathen (Norway)		
ENERGY			
Committee on Energy		5th session 7-9 November 1995	ECE/ENERGY/28
Chairman:	Mr. A. Gritsenko (Russian Federation)		
Vice-Chairmen:	Mr.T. Alptürk (Turkey) Mr. I. Gâf-Deac (Romania)		
Working Party on Coal		5th session 18-20 October 1995	ENERGY/WP.1/10
Chairman:	Mr. M. Benech (France)		
Vice-Chairman:	Mr. V. Sukhov (Russian Federation)		
Meeting of Experts on Research, Management and Transition in the Coal Industry		25th session 16-17 October 1995	ENERGY/WP.1/ GE.1/9
Chairman:	Mr. V. Ilyin (Russian Federation)		
Vice-Chairman:	Mr. R. Mañana (Spain)		
Meeting of Experts on Coal Trade, Statistics and Transport		5th session 22-24 May 1995 Varna (Bulgaria)	ENERGY/WP.1/ GE.2/10
Chairman:	Mr. M. Margnes (France)		
Vice-Chairman:	Ms. S. Fumagalli (Italy)		
Meeting of Experts on Clean Coal Technologies		4th session 3-4 April 1995 Szczyrk (Poland)	ENERGY/WP.1/GE.3/8
Chairman:	Mr. T. Atwood (United States)		
Vice-Chairman:	Mr. L.. Kurczabinski (Poland)		
Symposium on Sustainable Development of Opencast Coalmining Regions		12-16 June 1995 Krasnojarsk (Russian Federation)	ENERGY/WP.1/ SEM.4/2
Chairman:	Mr. V. Guskov (Russian Federation)		
Vice-Chairman:	Mr. I. Gâf-Deac (Romania)		
Working Party on Electric Power		5th session 3-5 May 1995	ENERGY/WP.2/9
Chairman:	Mr. T. Alpturk (Turkey)		
Vice-Chairman:	Mr. J. Martin (United Kingdom)		

Body and officers	Session	Symbol of report
Meeting of Experts on Electric Power Generation and the Environment	5th session 25-26 September 1995	ENERGY/WP.2/ GE.1/10
Chairman: Ms. S. Tüzüner (Turkey) **Vice-Chairman:** Mr. H. Evans (United Kingdon)		
Symposium on Coal-Fired Power Generation, the Environment and Public Acceptance	30 May-1 June 1995 Ankara (Turkey)	ENERGY/WP.2/ SEM.1/2
Chairman: Mr. A. Gökcen (Turkey)		
Working Party on Gas	6th session 23-25 January 1996	ENERGY/WP.3/11
Chairman: Mr. C. Simeoni (Italy) **Vice-Chairman:** Mr. N. Pavlovschi (Romania)		
Meeting of Experts on Natural Gas Resources	18th session 12-13 June 1995	ENERGY/WP.3/ GE.1/10
Chairman: Mr. A. Van Adrichem Boogaert (Netherlands) **Vice-Chairman:** Mr. A. Bauk (Croatia)		
Meeting of Experts on the Use and Distribution of Gas	26th session 13-14 September 1995	ENERGY/WP.3/ GE.2/10
Chairman: Mr. G. Yardim (Turkey) **Vice-Chairman:** Mr. A. Fronski (Poland)		
Meeting of Experts on the Transport and Storage of Gas	26th session 15 September 1995	ENERGY/WP.3/ GE.3/10
Chairman: Mr. L. Bökenkamp (Germany) **Vice-Chairman:** Mr. R. van Noord (Netherlands)		
Steering Committee of the Energy Efficiency 2000 Project	6th session 22-24 May 1995	ENERGY/WP.4/2
Chairman: Mr. P. Burkhardt (Switzerland) **Vice-Chairman:** Mr. D. Volfberg (Russian Federation)		
Ad Hoc Meeting on Business Opportunities in Energy Efficiency Demonstration Zones	24-27 October 1995 Minsk (Belarus)	ENERGY/WP.4/AC.1/2
Chairman: Mr. L. Dubovik (Belarus) **Vice-Chairman:** Mr. D. Volfberg (Russian Federation)		
INDUSTRY AND TECHNOLOGY		
Advisory Workshop on Industrial Restructuring	8-9 June 1995	IND/AC.2/1
A. Science and Technology		

Body and officers		Session	Symbol of report
B. Chemicals			
Working Party on the Chemical Industry		5th session 27-29 September 1995	ECE/CHEM/101
Chairman:	Mr. J. Coupek (Czech Republic)		
Vice-Chairman:	Mr. J. Parmentier (Belgium)		
Meeting of Experts for the Pilot Project Demonstrating the Environmental Clean-up of Selected Sites Polluted by Chemicals		2nd meeting 1-2 June 1995	CHEM/AC.29/5
		3rd meeting 8 December 1995	CHEM/AC.29/7
Chairman:	Mr. J. Coupek (Czech Republic)		
Ad Hoc Meeting on the Comparative Databank of Chemical Legislation in ECE Member Countries		2nd meeting 26 September 1995	CHEM/AC.30/5
Chairman:	Mr. K. Jeynes (European Commission)	3rd meeting 4 March 1996	CHEM/AC.30/7
International Workshop on Technologies for Soil Decontamination and Remediation of Soils Polluted by Chemical Products		5-7 December 1995 Paris (France)	CHEM/AC.32/5
Chairman:	Mr. P. Fillet (France)		
Meeting of Experts on the Periodic Survey of the Chemical Industry		21st session 26 September 1995	CHEM/GE.1/36
Chairman:	Mr. V. Kamenicky (United States)		
Seminar on the Complex Utilization of Raw Materials using Advanced Low- and Non-waste Process Technologies		12-15 September 1995 (Moscow, Russian Federation)	CHEM/SEM.20/3
Chairman:	Mr. E. Evzerikhin (Russian Federation)		
Preparatory Meeting for the Seminar on Ecological Applications of Innovative Membrane Technology in the Chemical Industry		28 June 1995	CHEM/SEM.21/AC/2
Chairman:	Mr. E. Drioli (Italy)		
C. Engineering industries and automation			
Meeting on Questions of Statistics concerning Engineering Industries and Automation		17th meeting 20 October 1995	ENG.AUT/AC.1/30
Chairman:	Mr. H. Kriegbaum (Germany)		
Vice-Chairman:	Ms. M. Jacot (Switzerland)		
Open-ended Meeting of Experts on Robotics		1st meeting 4 September 1995	ENG.AUT/GE.1/2
Chairman:	Mr. B. Weichbrodt (Sweden)		

Body and officers	Session	Symbol of report
Seminar on National Experiences of Conversion to ISIC Rev.3 /NACE Rev.1	19-20 October 1995	ENG.AUT/SEM.13/4
Chairman: Mr. D. Knight (United Kingdom)		
D. Standardization		
Working Party on Standardization Policies	5th session 22-24 May 1995	ECE/STAND/42
Chairman: Mr. S. Averin (Russian Federation) **Vice-Chairman:** Mr. C. Arvius (Sweden)		
E. Steel		
Working Party on Steel	5th session 25-27 October 1995	ECE/STEEL/91
Chairman: Mr. U. Meiswinkel (Germany) **Vice-Chairman:** Mr. L. Shevelev (Russian Federation)		
Ad Hoc Meeting for the Study on Privatization and Changing Ownership in the Steel Industry	2nd meeting 27 March 1996	STEEL/AC.16/5
Chairman: Mr. V. Laszczick (Poland)		
Ad Hoc Meeting for the Study on the Restructuring of the Iron and Steel Industry - Impact of New Technologies	27 March 1996	STEEL/AC.17/2
Chairman: Mr. J.E. Astier (France)		
Meeting of Experts on the Steel Market	35th session 29 March 1996	STEEL/GE.4/19
Chairman: Mr. L. Shevelev (Russian Federation)		
Group of Experts on the Steel Industry and the Environment	2nd meeting 28 March 1996	STEEL/GE.7/4
Chairman: Mr. R.F. Bizec (France) **Vice-Chairman:** Mr. J. Philipp (Germany)		
Seminar on the Steel Industry and Recycling	24-27 April 1995 Düsseldorf, Germany	STEEL/SEM.20/2
Chairman: Mr. J.A. Philipp (Germany) **Vice-Chairman:** Mr. G.A. Shamanov (Russian Federation)		
Preparatory Meeting for the Seminar on the Processing, Utilization and Disposal of Waste in the Steel Industry	2nd meeting 26 March 1996	
Chairman: Mr. P. Tardy (Hungary)		

Body and officers	Session	Symbol of report
Preparatory Meeting for the Conference on the 21st Century Steel Industry of the Russian Federation and the Commonwealth of Independent States	26 March 1996	STEEL/SEM.22/AC/2
Chairman: Mr. L. Shevelev (Russian Federation)		
AGRICULTURE AND TIMBER **A. Agriculture**		
Committee on Agriculture	46th session 20-23 November 1995	ECE/AGRI/134
Chairman: Mr. K. Hirsch (Germany) **Vice-Chairmen:** Mr. N. Averyanov (Russian Federation) Mr. A. Gasowski (Poland)		
Working Party on Standardization of Perishable Produce and Quality Development	51st session 6-10 November 1995	AGRI/WP.1/64
Chairman: Mr. F. Luciano (Italy) **Vice-Chairmen:** Mrs. J. Swiecka (Poland) Mr. F. Niculescu (Romania)		
Meeting of Experts on Coordination of Standardization of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables	41st session 10-12 May 1995	AGRI/WP.1/GE.1/46
Chairman: Mr. M. Vilchez-Barros (Spain) **Vice-Chairman:** Mr. D.L. Priester (United States)		
Meeting of Experts on Standardization of Dry and Dried Produce (Fruit)	42nd session 19-22 June 1995	AGRI/WP.1/GE.2/55
Chairman: Mr. F. Monastra (Italy) **Vice-Chairman:** Mrs. D. Gillatt (United Kingdom)		
Meeting of Experts on Standardization of Early and Ware Potatoes	11th session 8-9 May 1995	AGRI/WP.1/GE.5/20
Chairman: Mr. A.J.F. Heydendael (Netherlands) **Vice-Chairman:** Mr. B. Proton (France)		
Meeting of Experts on Standardization of Potatoes (Seed)	28th session 12-16 February 1996 Lisbon (Portugal)	AGRI/WP.1/GE.6/28
Chairman: Mr. B. Borrel (Canada) **Vice-Chairman:** Mr. P.G. Bianchi (Italy)		
B. Timber		
Timber Committee	53rd session 13-16 November 1995	ECE/TIM/85
Chairman: Mr. G. Siegel (Austria) **Vice-Chairmen:** Mr. M.A. Burdin (Russian Federation) Mr. D. Darr (United States)		

Body and officers		Session	Symbol of report
Steering Committee of the Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Committee on Forest Technology, Management and Training		12th session 26-27 June 1995	TIM/EFC/WP.1/ AC.1/17
Chairman:	Mr. P. Efthymiou (Greece)		
Vice-Chairmen:	Mr. S.-A. Axelsson (Sweden) Mr. H. Hoefle (Germany) Mr. V. Korobov (Russian Federation)		
Joint FAO/ECE Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics		20th session 20-22 June 1995	TIM/EFC/WP.2/25
Chairman:	Mr. N.A. Burdin (Russian Federation)		
Vice-Chairman:	Mr. H. Ollmann (Germany)		
Seminar on Exploring Multiple Use and Ecosystem Management: from policy to operational practice		9-15 September 1995 Prince George, BC, (Canada)	TIM/EFC/WP.1/ SEM.42/2
Co-Chairmen:	Ms. B. Beedle (Canada) Ms. E. Teske (Canada)		
HUMAN SETTLEMENTS			
Committee on Human Settlements		56th session 18-20 September 1995	ECE/HBP/93
Chairman:	Mr. P. Gurtner (Switzerland)		
Vice-Chairmen:	Mr. S. Brenke (Germany) Mr. U. Christiansen (Denmark) Ms. S. Hautojarvi (Finland) Ms. H. Zaniewska (Poland) Ms. M. Paumen (United States)		
Meeting of Experts on Cadastre and Land Registration Systems		26-27 February 1996	HBP/AC.11/2
Chairman:	Mr. H. Onsrud (Norway)		
Vice-Chairman:	Mrs. B. Lipej (Slovenia)		
Meeting of Experts on Human Settlements Problems in Southern Europe		19th meeting 4-6 September 1995 Bucharest (Romania)	HBP/GE.2/31
Chairman:	Mr. T. Popescu (Romania)		
Vice-Chairman:	Ms. R. Noula (Greece)		
Working Party on Sustainable Human Settlements Planning		3rd session 22-24 May 1995	HBP/WP.5/6
Chairman:	Mr. U. Christiansen (Denmark)		
Vice-Chairman:	Mr. L. Ianasi (Romania)		
Working Party on Housing Development, Modernization and Management		3rd session 10-12 May 1995	HBP/WP.6/6
Chairman:	Mr. S. Brenke (Germany)		
Vice-Chairman:	Mr. V. Loktionov (Russian Federation)		

ANNEX III

PUBLICATIONS AND DOCUMENTS ISSUED BY THE COMMISSION

A. LIST OF MAJOR ECE STUDIES AND PUBLICATIONS, 1995/1996

NOTE: The language versions issued are indicated by the following abbreviations: E, English; F, French; R, Russian; E/F, bilingual (English/French); E/F/R, trilingual (English/French/Russian); *, published for the United Nations by external publishers, as indicated.

GENERAL

Annual Report of the ECE to ECOSOC, 27 April 1994 - 11 April 1995, Supplement No. 16 (E/1996/36-E/ECE/1324 and Add. 1) E F R

Economic Survey of Europe in 1994-1995 (Sales No. 95.II.E.1) E F R

Economic Bulletin for Europe, Vol. 47 (1995) (Sales No. 95.II.E.24) E F R

ENVIRONMENTAL AND WATER PROBLEMS

Environment for Europe E F R

Guidelines on Public Participation in Environmental Decision-making (ECE/CEP/24/Rev.1) E/F/R

Protocol to the 1979 Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution concerning the Control of Emissions of Nitrogen Oxides or their Transboundary Fluxes - First revised edition(ECE/EB.AIR/21/Rev.1) E/F/R

Strategies and Policies for Air Pollution Abatement, 1994 Major Review (ECE/EB.AIR/44) (Sales No. 95.II.E.15) E F R

Air Pollution Studies:

No.11 - Effects and Control of Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (ECE/EB.AIR/43) (Sales No. 95.II.E.17) E F R

Water Series

No. 2 - Protection and Sustainable Use of Waters - Recommendations to ECE Governments (ECE/CEP/10) (Sales No. 95.II.E.14) E F R

TRANSPORT

Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, Ninth revised edition (ST/SG/AC.10/1/Rev.9) (Sales No. 95.VIII.1) (also available in Arabic, Chinese and Spanish) E F R

Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods - Manual of Tests and Criteria, Second revised edition (ST/SG/AC.10/11/Rev.2) (Sales No. 95.VIII.2) E F R

TIR Handbook, including Customs Convention on the International Transport of Goods under cover of TIR Carnets (TIR Convention 1975) (ECE/TRANS/TIR/4) (Sales No. GV.E.91.0.1) E F R

European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road (ADR), Draft Amendments to Annexes A and B (Sales No. E.96.VIII.1) — E F

Periodic Bulletins

Annual Bulletin of Transport Statistics for Europe and North America, 1995, Vol. XLV (Sales No. 95.II.E.9) — E/F/R

STATISTICS

Statistical Yearbook of the ECE - Trends in Europe and North America, 1995, (Sales No. 95.II.E.13) — E

Periodic Bulletins

Statistical Journal, Vol. 12 (International Organizations Services, B.V.) — E *

Women and Men in Europe and North America, 1995 (Sales No. GV.E.95.0.12) — E

TRADE

ISO Country Code for Representation of Names of Countries - Recommendation No. 3, 3rd edition (ECE/TRADE/201) — E F R

Abbreviations of Incoterms, Alphabetical Code for Incoterms 1990 - Recommendation No. 5, 3rd edition (ECE/TRADE/202) — E F R

Alphabetical Code for the Representation of Currencies - Recommendation No. 9, 2nd edition (ECE/TRADE/203) — E F R

Documentary Aspects of the International Transport of Dangerous Goods - Recommendation No. 11, 2nd edition (ECE/TRADE/204) — E F R

UN/LOCODE - Code for Ports and Other Locations - Recommendation No. 16, 2nd edition (ECE/TRADE/205) — E F R

Harmonization of Transport Status Codes - Recommendation No. 24 (ECE/TRADE/206) — E F R

Use of the United Nations Electronic Data Interchange for Administration, Commerce and Transport (UN/EDIFACT) - Recommendation No. 25 (ECE/TRADE/207) — E F R

Commercial Use of Interchange Agreements for Electronic Data Interchange - Recommendation No. 26 (ECE/TRADE/208) — E F R

ENERGY

Periodic Bulletins

Annual Bulletin of Coal Statistics for Europe and North America, 1995, Vol. XXVIII (Sales No. 95.II.E.4) — E/F/R

Annual Bulletin of Electric Energy Statistics for Europe and North America, 1995, Vol. XXXIX (Sales No. 95.II.E.5) — E/F/R

Annual Bulletin of Gas Statistics for Europe and North America, 1995, Vol. XXIX (Sales No. 95.II.E.6) — E/F/R

Energy Balances for Europe and North America, 1992, 1993-2010 (ECE/ENERGY/12) (Sales No. GV.E.96.0.5) E/F

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Industrial Restructuring in Selected Countries in Transition (ECE/IND/1) E R

A. SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

B. CHEMICALS

The Chemical Industry in 1994, Annual Review: Production and Trade Statistics 1991-1993 (ECE/CHEM/102) (Sales No. 95.II.E.18) E F R

Current Economic Situation and Outlook in the Plastics Sector - Discussion Papers (ECE/CHEM/104) E F R

C. ENGINEERING INDUSTRIES AND AUTOMATION

World Engineering Industries and Automation - Performance and Prospects, 1994-1996 (ECE/ENG.AUT/57) (Sales No. 96.II.E.5) E F R

D. STANDARDIZATION

E. STEEL

The Steel Market in 1994 and Prospects for 1995 (ECE/STEEL/92) (Sales No. 95.II.E.19) E F R

ECE Steel Series 1995: Iron and Steel Scrap (ECE/STEEL/93) (Sales No. 95.II.E.22) E F R

Periodic Bulletins

Annual Bulletin of Steel Statistics for Europe and North America, 1991-1994, Vol. XXI (Sales No. 96.II.E.10) E/F/R

Statistics of World Trade in Steel, 1994 (ECE/STEEL/94) (Sales No. 95.II.E.25) E/F/R

AGRICULTURE

The Role of Farmers and Professional Agricultural Organizations as Partners of Governments in Developing and Implementing Policies (ECE/AGRI/132) E F R

Agricultural Review for Europe No.37, 1993 and 1994 (ECE/AGRI/130):

Vol. I: Agricultural Trade (Sales No. 96.II.E.3) E F R

Prices of Agricultural Products and Selected Inputs in Europe and North America, 1992/93: Annual ECE/FAO Price Review No. 44 (ECE/AGRI/131) (Sales No. 95.II.E.21) E F R

AGRI/Economics of the Agri-Food Sector and Farm Management, Report No.2: The Human Factor in Agriculture, with Reference to Increasingly Rapid Changes in Market Situations, Social Environment and Technology: Strategies for Professional Education (FAO/ECE/AGRI/WP.5/7) E F R

TIMBER

Geneva Timber and Forest Study Papers

No. 7: Survey of the Structure of the Sawmilling Industry in the ECE/FAO Region (ECE/TIM/SP/7) (Sales No. 95.II.E.12)	E F R
No. 8: Forest and Forest Products - Country Profile: Republic of Armenia (ECE/TIM/SP/8) (Sales No. 95.II.E.16)	E F R
No. 9: North American Timber Trends Study (ECE/TIM/SP/9) (Sales No. 96.II.E.2)	E F R

UN-ECE/FAO Timber and Forest Discussion Papers

No.1: Productivity in Finnish Forestry in 1964-1989 (ECE/TIM/DP/1)	E
No.2: Non-wood Benefits in Forestry: a Survey of Valuation Studies (ECE/TIM/DP/2)	E
No.3: Information Systems in Forestry: a Brief Overview (ECE/TIM/DP/3)	E
No.4: The outlook for the European Forest Resources and Roundwood Supply (ECE/TIM/DP/4)	E
No.5: Modelling Forest Products Demand, Supply and Trade (ECE/TIM/DP/5)	E
No.6: Projections of Forest Products Demand, Supply and Trade in ETTS V (ECE/TIM/DP/6)	E
No.7: Manual on Acute Forest Damage: Managing the Impact of Sudden and Severe Forest Damage (ECE/TIM/DP/7)	E

Periodic Bulletins

Timber Bulletin, Vol. XLVII (1994)

No.4: Forest Fire Statistics, 1991-1993 (ECE/TIM/BULL/47/4)	E F R

Timber Bulletin, Vol. XLVIII (1995)

No.1: Forest Products Prices 1992-1994 (ECE/TIM/BULL/48/1)	E/F
No.2: Forest Products Statistics, 1990-1994 (ECE/TIM/BULL/48/2)	E/F
No.3: Forest Products Annual Market Review, 1994-1995 (ECE/TIM/BULL/48/3)	E F R
No.4: Forest Fire Statistics, 1992-1994 (ECE/TIM/BULL/48/4)	E F R
No.6: Forest Products Markets in 1995 and Prospects for 1996 (ECE/TIM/BULL/48/6)	E/F

HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

Towards Sustainable Human Settlements Development (ECE/HBP/94) (Sales No. 95.II.E.6)	E F R
Guidelines on Sustainable Human Settlements Pikanning and Management (ECE/HBP/95) (Sales No. 96.II.E.9)	E F R

Strategies to Implement Human Settlements Policies on Urban Renewal and Housing Modernization (ECE/HBP/97) (Sales No. 95.II.E.8) E F R

Contribution of the Meeting of Experts on Human Settlements Problems in Southern Europe to the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) (ECE/HBP/98) E F R

Periodic Bulletins

Annual Bulletin of Housing and Building Statistics for Europe and North America, 1980, 1990-1993, Vol. XXXVII (Sales No. 95.II.E.15) E/F/R

B. LIST OF DOCUMENTS SUBMITTED TO THE COMMISSION AT ITS FIFTY-FIRST SESSION

Provisional agenda	E/ECE/1326
Sustainable industrial development	/1327
Diversification of forms and methods of the Commission's activities designed to assist the integration of the countries in transition into the European and global economy	/1328
List of experts and specialists in the problems of privatization and of transition of different economic sectors to market conditions	/1328/Add.1
ECE Regional Advisory Services Programme (RASP) - Review of objectives and activities in 1994-1995 and proposals for further improvement	/1329
Commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the Economic Commission for Europe	/1330
Interim report of the Commission's Ad Hoc Working Group on Strategic Directions and Efficiency	/1331
Cooperation between the Economic Commission for Europe and the Organization on Security and Cooperation in Europe, including the Concluding Document of the Review Meeting in Geneva (22-24 January 1996) and the fourth session of the Economic Forum in Prague (March 1996), as well as economic cooperation in the Mediterranean in the light of the Final Act of the CSCE	/1333
Overview of the most recent initiatives on the Mediterranean by the United Nations system and other international organizations	/1333/Add.1
Cooperation and coordination of activities with other organizations and institutions and subregional groupings active in the ECE region	/1334
Consultations held by the Chairman of the Commission with the Bureaux or the Chairpersons of the Principal Subsidiary Bodies and the Working Parties reporting directly to the Commission	/1335
Summary Document	/1336
Cooperation in the field of environment and sustainable development	/1337
Cooperation in the field of transport	/1338

Cooperation in the field of energy	/1339
Cooperation in the field of human settlements	/1340
Programme of work for 1996-2000	/1341
Resolutions bearing on the work of the Commission adopted by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council	/1342
ECE contribution and follow-up to UN global programmes and conferences and to United Nations programmes designed to assist developing countries of other regions	/1343

Reports of the Principal Subsidiary Bodies of the Commission

Committee on Environmental Policy	ECE/CEP/14 + Add.1 ECE/CEP/18
Inland Transport Committee	ECE/TRANS/116 + Add.1
Conference of European Statisticians	ECE/CES/48 CES/1995/R.25 + Adds
Committee on the Development of Trade	ECE/TRADE/199
Senior Economic Advisers to ECE Governments	ECE/EC.AD/48 + Add.1
Committee on Energy	ECE/ENERGY/28
Committee on Agriculture	ECE/AGRI/134
Timber Committee	ECE/TIM/85
Committee on Human Settlements	ECE/HBP/93

Reports of other subsidiary bodies

Working Party on the Chemical Industry	ECE/CHEM/101
Working Party on Standardization Policies	ECE/STAND/42
Working Party on Steel	ECE/STEEL/91

ANNEX IV

PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 1996-2000

Introduction

The programme of work is divided into the following programme categories:

CATEGORY	SUB-PROGRAMME
00	Policy and coordination of the work of the Commission
01	Environment
02	Transport
03	Statistics
04	Trade facilitation
05	Economic analysis
06	Energy
07	Development of international trade
08	Industry and technology A. Science and technology B. Chemicals * C. Engineering industries and automation * D. Standardization * E. Steel *
09	Agriculture and timber A. Agriculture B. Timber
10	Human settlements

* Activities in these areas are carried out by Working Parties reporting directly to the Commission.

SUB-PROGRAMME 00 - POLICY AND COORDINATION OF THE WORK OF THE COMMISSION AS A WHOLE

Authority: Terms of reference of the Commission; relevant resolutions and other decisions of the Economic and Social Council and the Commission.

PROGRAMME ACTIVITY 00.1: ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMISSION AS A WHOLE AND PROGRAMME OF WORK AND PRIORITIES

00.1.1 Review and guidance of the activities of the Commission as a whole: evaluation, coordination and formulation of the programme of work

Description: At its annual sessions the Commission will consider its work as a whole; review and evaluate its own activity as well as that of its subsidiary bodies; guide the policy orientation, coordination and planning of the work carried out by the subsidiary bodies under its auspices; and formulate and approve its programme of work.

Work accomplished and to be undertaken: At its annual sessions the Commission considers the reports of its subsidiary bodies on their work and the Executive Secretary's reports on the implementation of its relevant resolutions and decisions. The Commission considers and approves annually its programme of work for the following year and endorses in principle, subject to review at the following session, its long-term programme of work covering the next five years. The policy guidance given by the Commission, including measures for coordination, is embodied in its decisions to be implemented, as appropriate, by member Governments, by the Commission's subsidiary bodies and by its secretariat.

Duration: Continuing.

00.1.2 The work of the Commission as a whole and its future activities

Description: In its decision O (45) the Commission decided on the following priority areas of activity: environment, transport, statistics, trade facilitation, and economic analysis. It also decided on practical measures in these priority areas and on the broad outlines of work in sectors not identified as priorities in order to promote the process of economic reform and integrate the economies in transition into the global economy. The Commission further agreed on a series of measures on the methods of work, the structure and the resources of the Commission. It recalled in decision A (46) that in accordance with decision O (45) account should be taken of the impact that ECE activities in sectors not identified as priorities, such as energy, have on priority sectors.

Work accomplished: The priorities as designated in decision O (45) were incorporated in the revised Medium-term Plan for 1992-1997 and in the budget proposals of the biennia 1994-1995 and 1996 1997. The provisions of decision A (46) have been implemented primarily through the redeployment of human and financial resources from programme areas not designated as priorities to the five designated priority areas.

Work to be undertaken: The Commission, taking note of the Executive Secretary's note (E/ECE/1342) on the implications of resolutions of the General Assembly and of ECOSOC for the work of the ECE and his note on ECE's contribution and follow up to UN global programmes and conferences (E/ECE/1343) and requested the Executive Secretary to continue the ongoing work in these fields and to consult member States before taking any new initiatives on the Commission's contribution to forthcoming or recent global conferences or international years pending the decisions of its fifty-second session on the outcome of the work of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Strategic Directions and Efficiency. The Executive Secretary will continue to implement

the provisions and recommendations contained in decisions O (45) and P (45) where the work of the secretariat is concerned.

In its decision A (51) the Commission decided to suspend the activities of the Committee on Agriculture and to retain only ECE work on Standardization of perishable produce, to be transferred for the time being to the Committee on the Development of Trade, and on Agricultural Statistics, to be transferred for the time being to the Conference of European Statisticians pending the decisions of its fifty-second session on the future of the Committee on Agriculture.

In its decision B (51) the Commission:

(a) Invited member States and requested the Executive Secretary to encourage, to the greatest extent practicable, business community participation in execution of the ECE mandate through developing its closer cooperation with relevant PSBs and trust funds;

(b) Requested the Executive Secretary to take the necessary steps to improve the management of extra-budgetary funds contributed by the business community through the preparation of relevant administrative guidelines and appropriate selection of projects to be financed from these funds, in a manner which will encourage further business community involvement and cooperation;

(c) Also requested the Executive Secretary to explore, in consultations with the governments of the member States and representatives of the business community, the feasibility of a more consistent framework of cooperation with the business community with particular attention to the interests of emerging private sector in the countries in transition;

(d) Requested the Executive Secretary to study possible mechanisms for enhancing NGO and business community involvement in the ECE activities, with due regard to similar arrangements already in place with the ECOSOC, UNCTAD and other relevant United Nations bodies and to make proposals for its further development, to be presented to the fifty-second session of the Commission.

The Commission approved its programme of work for 1996-1997 and endorsed in principle, subject to review at its fifty-second session, its programme of work for 1996-2000.

The provisions of decision A (51) and the other decisions adopted by the Commission at its fifty-first session will be drawn to the attention of the pertinent subsidiary bodies for appropriate action, and reports on the implementation of these decisions will be prepared for consideration by the Commission at its fifty-second session.

Duration: One year (1996/1997)

00.1.3 Commission activities designed to assist countries of the region in transition to a market economy and their integration with the European and global economy, including facilitating access to markets for countries in transition

Description: Taking into account the fact that the recent and current developments in central and eastern Europe modify the characteristics and functioning of the societies and economies of countries of the region, the Commission, in its decisions D (45), B (46), D (47), B (48), B (49) and B (50), considered that in view of its composition and the nature of the cooperation which it implements it had a role to play in assisting the transition to market economies.

In its decision O (45) the Commission noted that work in its five priority sectors contributed significantly to promoting reform and integration or reintegration of the economies in transition with the economies of

the ECE region and therefore with the global economy. In order to promote the process of economic reform, it decided on broad outlines of work in sectors not identified as priorities, and determined that the primary work methods employed to address transition issues should be workshops and other similar informal fora.

Work accomplished: The Commission has continued to organize activities to assist the countries of the region which are in transition to a market economy. In particular the ECE programme of workshops has produced some 190 workshops. Through the Trust Fund for Assistance to Countries in Transition (TFACT) the Commission has provided financial assistance to the countries in transition for their participation in the ECE programme of workshops and in conventions, although these funds cannot be used for regular meetings of ECE subsidiary bodies. The Principal Subsidiary Bodies reviewed their programmes and methods of work to permit a rapid and effective response to the needs of the economies in transition. These activities were carried out in close collaboration with the international, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, in particular those identified in decisions D (45), O (45) and B (46).

In response to paragraph 7 of decision B (48) and as a result of measures taken by the Secretary-General to promote decentralization of the Organization's activities in the economic and social sectors, ECE launched in the course of 1994 a programme of regional advisory services designed to foster further economic development within the region (see E/ECE/1328 and E/ECE/1329).

Work to be undertaken: The ECE programme of workshops has developed further, with more than 40 on the provisional programme of future workshops.

Member Governments, the European Union and competent international institutions will continue to be invited to participate actively in transition-related activities, and encouraged to provide continued financial assistance, on a bilateral or multilateral basis, for promoting such activities. The Principal Subsidiary Bodies will continue to contribute within their competence to the preparation of practical workshops especially on transition issues. The Executive Secretary will continue to facilitate consultations with interested countries and international institutions in order to provide expertise in the areas of competence of the Commission in response to requests from intereted member countries. (See also sub-programme 05)

The Executive Secretary has finalized (E/ECE/1328/Add.1) the list of experts and specialists in the problems of privatization and of transition of different economic sectors to market conditions, whose services could be offered to interested countries in transition, providing advisory services in the areas mentioned in paragraph 32 of the report E/ECE/1287 and is exploring the possibility of providing information on training courses available to representatives of the business community of countries in transition.

The Executive Secretary in consultation with the UNDP, EBRD, OECD, the World Bank and other institutions and organizations has explored the possibility of establishing in one of the interested countries in transition, and with financial support of these organizations and institutions, training courses in matters of market economy for representatives of administration and business community of the countries in transition.

In its decision C (51) the Commission:

(a) Invited the Executive Secretary to continue the ongoing work to diversify within the ECE mandate the forms and methods of the ECE activities to assist countries in transition, pending the decisions of its fifty-second session on the outcome of the work of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Strategic Directions and Efficiency;

(b) Requested the Executive Secretary to continue work on the list of experts and specialists in the problems of privatization and transition of different sectors of economy to market conditions, whose services could be provided to interested countries in transition, with a view to making it more complete and more practical;

(c) Invited the Executive Secretary to to continue his consultations with the Joint Vienna Institute (JVI), the European Training Foundation and ILO/Turin Centre and other institutions on the appropriate contribution of ECE to their management training programmes for the countries in transition;

(d) Invited the Executive Secretary to consult the UN Programmes and funds and the international financial institutions on their possible contribution to the ECE activities of special interest to the countries in transition;

(e) Requested the Executive Secretary to continue consultations on data collection and data sharing on foreign direct investment opportunities in cooperation with the World Bank, EBRD and other relevant institutions as well as with the business community as a means to foster foreign direct investment into countries in transition and to elaborate a Guide to Investment Promotion Practice taking into account the work done by other international organizations in this field;

(f) Took note with satisfaction of the cooperation established between the ECE secretariat and the European Commission aimed at implementation of projects identified by countries in transition in the framework of the EU PHARE and TACIS programmes and invited the Executive Secretary to continue consultations with the European Commission so as to determine the possibility of further cooperation in providing assistance to economies in transition;

(g) Reiterated the need to focus the ECE Regional Advisory Services Programme (RASP) on complementing the activities of the ECE in favour of the countries in transition and invited the Executive Secretary to consult with member States on allocation of the funds made available for RASP;

(h) Reiterated its request to the Executive Secretary to address, in appropriate form, the Secretary-General of the United Nations with a request to allocate adequate resources within the existing United Nations regular budget for the implementation of the RASP;

(i) Confirmed the importance of continuing the programme of workshops and seminars on the subjects of practical importance to countries in transition in the ECE region, and invited member States and international organizations to continue and increase their support for the ECE workshops series;

(j) Invited Governments of the member countries, relevant international organizations and institutions as well as other potential donors to make contributions to the Trust Fund for Assistance to Countries in Transition (TFACT) to ensure the participation of representatives of the countries in transition in the ECE programme of workshops and seminars;

(k) Reiterated its recommendation to the Secretary-General of the United Nations to consider the possibility of using ECE as a focal point of facilitating within the framework of the appropriate arrangements to be made within the United Nations Secretariat the promotion and enhancing of mutual cooperation with UN global programmes, organs and specialized agencies and within their respective mandates.

Duration: Continuing.

00.1.4 Cooperation between the Economic Commission for Europe and the Organization on Security and Cooperation in Europe as well as economic cooperation in the Mediterranean in the light of the Final Act of the CSCE

Description: The ECE secretariat cooperates with the OSCE in the economic dimension, as called for in the Final Act of the CSCE, the Charter of Paris for a New Europe, documents of the Bonn Conference on Economic Cooperation, the Helsinki Document (1992), the Budapest Document 1994 and the Geneva Document 1996, notably in the areas of the environment, statistics, international trade and industry and technology.

The ECE/OSCE relationship was given a new impetus by the Budapest Document 1994, which not only reaffirmed the earlier CSCE documents but called for the strengthening of cooperation with ECE and other international organizations and institutions to support the transition processes, regional cooperation and environmental responsibility, in support of the OSCE's economic dimension priorities. The relevant ECE Principal Subsidiary Bodies pay particular attention to the topics selected for discussion at the annual Economic Forum.

The Commission and its Principal Subsidiary Bodies also give particular attention to projects and activities of interest to the Mediterranean countries of the ECE region, bearing in mind the relevant provisions of the Final Act and other Concluding Documents of the CSCE. The Commission's subsidiary bodies identify areas of interest, particularly in the field of trade, transport, environment, and industry and technology, for economic cooperation in the Mediterranean within the framework of over-all ECE activities and the Commission's programme of work. The Executive Secretary cooperates with the relevant United Nations bodies and actively pursues contacts with all Mediterranean countries not members of the Commission, on subjects within the competence of the ECE of common interest to the Mediterranean countries. (See documents E/ECE/1333 and Add.1)

Work accomplished: With respect to cooperation with the OSCE, the secretariat has participated in all relevant meetings of the OSCE notably, since the fiftieth session, the third Economic Forum in June 1995, the OSCE Review Conference in Geneva in January 1996 and the Fourth Economic Forum in Prague in March 1996. ECE provided a Moderator and Rapporteur for these three meetings and prepared documents for them on the basis of the work of the Commission. OSCE has been kept fully informed of ECE activities in order to avoid duplication of functions and has been invited to play an active role in the Budapest Summit follow-up and in the Economic Forum preparation and follow-up as called for in the Budapest Document 1994. It has contributed to two workshops organized under the auspices of the OSCE, one on the role of Trans-European infrastructure for stability and cooperation in the Black Sea region (Sofia, November 1995) and one on rehabilitating the environment (Tashkent, October 1995); the measures taken to reduce the travel budget prevented the secretariat from participating in the latter meeting.

Work to be undertaken: The subsidiary bodies will take into account in their work the provisions of the relevant and most recent CSCE documents, in particular the concluding document of the Review Meeting in Geneva, which also reaffirms the earlier documents in which ECE is named as an implementing agency. They will also contribute in the appropriate manner to the OSCE Economic Forum, whose two major topics for 1996 are managing the social aspects and political risks in transition, and building economic confidence in order to promote security. ECE is prepared to organize joint seminars on matters where it has competence and can provide expertise and experience and which at the same time avoid possible duplication with activities undertaken by other international organizations.

In its decision D (51) the Commission:

(a) Considered that cooperation between ECE and the OSCE could be strengthened, within existing resources, along the following lines:

- continuation of regular consultations between the two organizations at the level of the Executive Secretary of ECE and the Secretary-General of the OSCE on the matters of implementation of economic dimension commitments contained in the OSCE documents and in particular to the preparation and the follow-up of the meetings of the OSCE Economic Forum;

- cooperation in the organization of workshops and seminars identified by the Economic Forum on economic dimension subjects including investment promotion and investment regimes in the countries in transition;

- elaboration by ECE of early warning indicators of the economic situation through provision of timely and topical statistics and economic analysis, while taking into account the work being done by other international organizations in this field, thus enabling OSCE to detect risks of tension which could endanger stability and security in the region,

(b) Requested the Executive Secretary to take the necessary steps to ensure the ECE contribution to the follow-up of the Fourth Meeting of the Economic Forum;

(c) Called upon its Subsidiary Bodies to contribute in appropriate manner to the practical follow-up of the Fourth Meeting of the OSCE Economic Forum in line with the role recognized to the UN/ECE by paragraph 15 of the Budapest Summit Declaration;

(d) Also requested the Executive Secretary to consult the OSCE Secretary-General on further strengthening the cooperation between ECE and the OSCE in the implementation of the pertinent provisions of the CSCE/OSCE documents relating to the strengthening of economic cooperation in the region, assistance to the countries in transition as well as to the economic security in the region.

In its decision E (51) the Commission:

(a) Called upon the Executive Secretary as previously requested to continue undertaking action-oriented analysis of existing cooperation between ECE Mediterranean countries, and to identify effective means of enhancing economic cooperation in the Mediterranean, as well as between Mediterranean and other ECE member countries, in all areas of the ECE programme of work, within existing resources, for consideration by the Principal Subsidiary Bodies and the Working Parties of the Commission in their programme of work;

(b) Further called upon member States to assist the Commission in its current activities on the analysis of macroeconomic and sectoral policies with a view to taking into account the Mediterranean dimension of the ECE;

(c) Requested the Executive Secretary to continue to cooperate with the Executive Secretaries of the other regional commissions concerned, as well as heads of other relevant United Nations bodies in order to secure interaction with Mediterranean partners for cooperation, with a view to increasing interregional cooperation on the subjects within the competence of the ECE and which are of common interest to the Mediterranean countries;

(d) Took note of resolution E/1995/48, which asked the ECE Executive Secretary to present a report on the project of the Europe-Africa permanent link through the straits of Gibraltar to the 1997 ECOSOC Substantive Session;

(e) Called upon Mediterranean countries to work closely with the ECE and OSCE to intensify the dialogue with the Mediterranean partners for cooperation through seminars and to intensify their common links by the implementation of specific projects for the Mediterranean region, and invited the Executive Secretary to cooperate with the informal open-ended contact group, OSCE Permanent Council in Vienna, pursuant to the decision on the Mediterranean adopted at the Budapest Summit 1994;

(f) Called upon the ECE to cooperate with the OSCE in the organization of workshops and seminars identified by the OSCE on economic cooperation subjects that are devoted to Mediterranean questions with the Mediterranean partners for cooperation;

(g) Invited the Executive Secretary to explore the possibility of EU funding, envisaged in the Economic and Financial Partnership dimension of the Work Plan of the Barcelona Conference, to develop and to assist in the implementation of projects in areas such as trade facilitation, environment, transport, statistics and energy which are supported by the Mediterranean countries.

Duration: Continuing.

00.1.5 Institutional arrangements for ECE

Description: In accordance with decision P (45), ad hoc informal meetings of the Commission are convened at least once every three months by the Chairperson of the Commission, with, inter alia, the following tasks: (a) to consult on policy matters concerning the activities of the Commission; (b) to assist preparations for the annual sessions of the Commission; (c) to monitor progress in the work programmes of the Commission; (d) to offer any necessary guidance to the Executive Secretary on the work of the Commission.

Work accomplished and to be undertaken: Ad hoc informal meetings have been and will continue to be convened by the Chairperson of the Commission in accordance with decision P (45). In its decision A (50) the Commission invited the Executive Secretary to explore ways and means to increase the visibility and the outside perception of the activities of the ECE and to present information to the forthcoming Ad Hoc informal meetings of the Commission.

A brochure entitled "Introduction to the Economic Commission for Europe", and informal note on "The uniqueness of ECE" and on "The UN/ECE and the business community" have been produced, as well as several press releases. The Fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations gave ECE the opportunity to participate in several conferences. Actions taken as a follow-up to decision A (50) also contributed to increasing the visibility of ECE.

Duration: Continuing.

00.1.6 The provision of adequate resources for the servicing of the priority and other sectors of the Economic Commission for Europe

Description: In its decisions E (48), A (50) and C (50), the Commission, conscious that the effective and efficient management of the ECE, like that of other UN organizations, depended upon the reliable provision of resources, both financial and human, including skilled professionals, and aware that its increased membership had expanded the ECE's activities and imposed extra demands on its tightly-stretched resources, noted with concern that unfilled vacancies at the professional level in the priority sectors and other sectors are seriously impeding both technical and practical work of importance to the member States, as well as the ability of the secretariat to respond to the growing needs of countries in transition.

Work accomplished: The Executive Secretary has regularly provided information on the deployment of resources both under the regular budget and from extra-budgetary contributions to Permanent Missions in Geneva and to the Principal Subsidiary Bodies. He has also cooperated closely with United Nations Headquarters in the filling of key vacancies in the secretariat and in the allocation of financial resources to mandated programmes. He has, as long as authorized, used vacant posts for short-term contracts in order not to deprive programmes of needed resources.

The Executive Secretary urged the UN Secretary-General, in the budget submission for 1996-1997, to consider positively the possibility of future strengthening of the Commission by recommending to the General Assembly the approval of adequate human and financial resources, taking into account the areas of competence of the ECE and the needs of new member countries. The proposed programme budget finally adopted contained in increase of two posts, to take into account the increase of the membership of the Commission from 34 to 55 countries, and redeployments from non-priority to priority sectors. No increase of the Regional Advisory Services Programme was allocated in the new budget; on the contrary resources were affected by the savings requested by the General Assembly.

Work to be undertaken: In its decision A (51) the Commission, taking into account the present situation of the ECE budget for the 1996-1997 biennium in the context of the United Nations financial difficulties and the ongoing discussions on the reform of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system, took note of the ECE regular budget for the biennium 1996-1997 as approved by the General Assembly and of the financial crisis of the United Nations and invited the Executive Secretary to examine carefully its implications on both professional and general service posts and to take action to fill the vacancies taking due account of established priorities in ECE and requested him to provide regular information on the deployment of resources both under the regular budget and from extra-budgetary contributions to Permanent Missions in Geneva and to the Principal Subsidiary Bodies and further invited the Executive Secretary to consult member States on any changes in its programme activities for the biennium 1996-1997 in the light of the proposals of the Secretary-General (document A/C.5/50/57) subject to their approval by the General Assembly.

In its decision F (51) the Commission requested the Executive Secretary, pending the decisions of its fifty-second session on the outcome of work of the Ad hoc Working Group on Strategic Directions and Efficiency, to continue to provide the resources already allocated to the ECE's environmental activities according to the priority of those activities as determined by the Committee on Environmental Policy and provide member States with detailed and timely information on the allocation of these resources.

Duration: One year (1996/1997).

00.1.7 Regional conference on transport and environment

Description: Following a feasibility study prepared by the Executive Secretary, the Commission decided in its decisions F (49) and G (49) that a Regional Conference on Transport and Environment should take place under the auspices of the ECE.

Work accomplished: A Preparatory Committee set up at expert level, including technical and scientific expertise, has reached agreement on a text of Draft Guidelines for a Common Strategy regarding Transport and Environment and has identified a number of issues on which binding agreement could be achieved.

Work to be undertaken: The Conference will be held in Vienna, if possible during the second week of November 1997. In its decision G (51) the Commission requested the Preparatory Committee to propose draft final documents for adoption by the Conference taking into account the options currently under

consideration and to submit the final report on the results, especially with regard to the organization, draft agenda, basic documentation and final documents to its fifty-second session to enable it to take decisions on substantive and formal questions.

Duration: Three years (1994-1997)

00.1.8 Commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the Economic Commission for Europe

Description: In its decision A (50) the Commission decided to convene its fifty-second jubilee session in 1997 at high level with the view to adopting a Declaration on strengthening of economic cooperation in Europe which would define strategic directions of future activities of the ECE reflecting new realities in the ECE region and taking into account the needs and priorities of economic development of the countries in transition as well as the budget capacity and possible recommendations of the ECE ad hoc meeting on savings.

Work accomplished and to be undertaken: The secretariat will prepare a publication intended to reflect its main contributions to the well-being of the peoples and governments of the region. Such a publication could be prepared by a team of young people serving as interns in the ECE and retired staff of the ECE who would jointly represent two different readings of the history and the future of the ECE. Senior government officials will also be invited to contribute statements and articles to the publication. The secretariat has requested the UN Postal Administration to begin preparations for a UN stamp in 1997 to commemorate the Commission's fiftieth anniversary.

In its decision A (51) the Commission urged a prompt response to the questionnaire prepared by the Ad hoc Working Group on Strategic Directions and Efficiency and addressed to ECE Governments to seek their views on the review process and requested the Ad hoc Working Group to finalize its deliberations as soon as possible in order to prepare a Declaration on Strengthening of economic cooperation in Europe to be adopted by its fifty-second Jubilee session in 1997.

Duration: Three years (1994-1997)

PROGRAMME ACTIVITY 00.2: RESOLUTIONS BEARING ON THE WORK OF THE COMMISSION ADOPTED BY THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL AND THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

00.2.1 Review and follow-up of resolutions adopted by the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly bearing on the work of the Commission

Description: At its annual sessions, the Commission will review the resolutions and decisions of the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly which have a bearing on its work and will decide on the action to be taken by it in the light of the provisions of those resolutions and decisions.

Work accomplished and to be undertaken: The Commission undertakes this review on the basis of the Executive Secretary's note (see document E/ECE/1342) in which he brings to the Commission's attention the resolutions and decisions bearing on the work of the Commission which were adopted by the Economic and Social Council and by the General Assembly during the period since the previous session of the Commission, and the relevant work underway, with special reference to global programmes of the United Nations.

Duration: Continuing.

00.2.2 The ECE's follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing 1995

Description: In accordance with decision J (40) the Executive Secretary is called upon to assess developments with respect to the economic role of women in the ECE region in conjunction with other research activities of the secretariat, taking into account the roles and responsibilities of the regional commissions in developing and implementing the system-wide medium-term plan for women and development and the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women. In accordance with decision H (44) the secretariat was called upon to concentrate on an inventory of the scope and content of time-use questionnaires and of time-use studies, and to make this data available to member countries. As a follow-up to decisions J (40), H (44) and K (48) and Council resolution 1990/12, the Commission provided a regional contribution to the preparatory work for the World Conference on Women (Beijing, 1995).

Work accomplished: The ECE High-level Regional Preparatory Meeting (HLM) for the World Conference (Vienna, October 1994) adopted a Regional Platform for Action which was submitted to the World Conference. An information booklet, mandated by the Department of Public Information, was distributed during the World Conference and the proceedings of the Regional Preparatory Meeting have been published.

The Conference of European Statisticians has convened meetings on improved measurements of women's labour-force participation and statistical indicators required by the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies in countries of the ECE region. Such statistical input on women's issues provided a substantive input for the World Conference. To coincide with the Beijing Conference, a volume of gender specific statistics was also published with the help of Statistics Sweden, Eurostat and INSTRAW. The next meeting of the European Representatives of ACC members (February 1996) will focus on follow-up to global conferences, including the World Conference on Women.

Work to be undertaken: In its decision A (50) the Commission invited the Executive Secretary to study possible action within the ECE mandate, within existing resources and without prejudice to the existing ECE programmes, on the follow-up at the regional level of the Fourth World Conference on Women. In its decision A (51) the Commission called on the Principal Subsidiary Bodies to take into account the mainstreaming of a gender perspective, where appropriate, while defining and implementing their work programmes.

Duration: Continuing.

00.2.3 Promotion of sustainable development at the regional level

Description: The Commission, in accordance with decisions F (48), F (49) and G (50), will continue to pay particular attention to the implementation of sustainable development at the regional level pursuant to relevant provisions of Agenda 21 and General Assembly resolutions.

Work accomplished: A regional conference on transport and environment will be held in 1997 (see 00.1.7). The Working Group of Senior Governmental Officials coordinated contributions to the Ministerial Conference on "Environment for Europe" held in Sofia in October 1995.

Work to be undertaken: Following the ECE Action Plan on the regional implementation of Agenda 21, the Principal Subsidiary Bodies are integrating environmental considerations into their sectoral activities and are thus promoting sustainable development across the spectrum of ECE's activities.

The Executive Secretary will continue to bring to the attention of the Executive Secretaries of the other regional commissions the ECE activities aimed at contributing to sustainable development and strengthening of international cooperation in this field.

The Commission held during its fifty-first annual session a Round Table Conference on cooperation and sustainable industrial development which the Executive Secretary prepared in cooperation with other subsidiary bodies, relevant international organizations and NGOs, as well as representatives of the business community and in consultations with ECE experts in the field of industrial cooperation, with a view to elaborating concrete proposals on strengthening cooperation in the field of sustainable industrial development, including modalities of the assistance to the countries in transition in this area. The report on this topic (E/ECE/1327) served as a background document for the round table, contained considerations for further work.

In its decision F (51) the Commission:

(a) Stressed the need for Principle Subsidiary Bodies to better integrate as appropriate environment and sustainable development considerations into their activities and decision-making;

(b) Called upon all its Subsidiary Bodies as appropriate to contribute to the implementation of the Environmental Programme for Europe;

(c) Endorsed the establishment of the Ad hoc Preparatory Working Group of Senior Officials with the aim of streamlining the Environment for Europe process and preparation of the 1998 Ministerial Conference in Denmark and equally endorsed the establishment of the Ad hoc Working Group for the preparation of a draft Convention on Access to Environmental Information and Public Participation in environmental decision making;

(d) Invited the ECE member States, intergovernmental organizations, international financial institutions and other potential donors to consider the financial and technical needs of the countries in transition in implementing the provisions of Conventions and Protocols in the field of environment.

Duration: Continuing.

00.2.4 International cooperation to address and mitigate the consequences of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant

Description: As a follow-up to decision C (46), Assembly resolution 47/165, Council resolution 1992/38 and decision J (48), paragraph 7 of decision A (49) called upon the Principal Subsidiary Bodies, in cooperation with the Department of Humanitarian Affairs (DHA), WHO and IAEA, taking into account their respective spheres of competence, to continue to contribute to the work of the Commission to mitigate the consequences of the Chernobyl accident.

Work accomplished and to be undertaken: A number of ECE subsidiary bodies have continued to review proposals for activities to address and mitigate the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster. The secretariat has continued its participation, in cooperation with DHA, in its coordination of international cooperation in this regard and has consulted UNIDO on possible forms of cooperation in the field of water. At the invitation of DHA, as coordinator for international cooperation, ECE participated in preparatory work for the tenth anniversary of the accident.

Duration: Continuing

PROGRAMME ACTIVITY 00.3: COOPERATION WITH OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

00.3.1 Review of the Commission's cooperation with other United Nations bodies

Description: At its annual sessions the Commission will review its activities in support of and its contribution to other United Nations programmes, especially those of UNCTAD, UNDP, UNEP and UNFPA, as well as of the other regional commissions. It will also consider matters relating to its cooperation with other United Nations bodies including the specialized agencies such as FAO, ILO, UNESCO, UNIDO and WHO, as well as IAEA. Special attention will be paid to problems of the member countries of the ECE which are developing from the economic point of view as part of the Commission's contribution to the global programmes and objectives of the United Nations aiming at economic development.

Work accomplished and to be undertaken: The Commission carries out this review annually on the basis of the Executive Secretary's report on the participation of such organizations and programmes in the Commission's work; on the Commission's own contribution to the programmes of these organizations; and on the secretariat's cooperation with the secretariats of these organizations, including the secretariats of the other regional commissions.

Duration: Continuing.

00.3.2 Review of the Commission's cooperation and coordination of activities with other international organizations and institutions

Description: At its annual sessions the Commission will review its activities related to cooperation and coordination of its activities with other international economic organizations and institutions, and with international non-governmental organizations participating in the work of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies, with particular regard to those organizations and institutions mentioned in decision O (45).

Work accomplished and to be undertaken: The Commission undertakes this review annually on the basis of the Executive Secretary's report on the relevant activities arising out of the participation of such organizations and their secretariats in, and the contribution they make to, the work of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies (see document E/ECE/1334). In its decision A (50) the Commission stressed the importance of establishing close cooperation with the Council of Europe and its Parliamentary Assembly and invited the Executive Secretary to undertake steps to this end.

Duration: Continuing.

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SUB-PROGRAMME 01 - ENVIRONMENT

Authority: Programme of work of the Committee on Environmental Policy, approved by the Committee at its second session (ECE/CEP/14, para. 41, Annex II and Add.1)

Programme activity 01.1: "Environment for Europe" process

Programme elements

- 01.1.1 Preparations for the Sofia Ministerial Conference (1)
- 01.1.2 Environmental Programme for Europe (2)
- 01.1.3 Environmental rights and obligations (10)

Programme activity 01.2: Strengthening environmental management capabilities

Programme elements

- 01.2.1 National environmental performance reviews (4)
- 01.2.2 Improvement of environmental management in countries in transition (6)
- 01.2.3 Management of hazardous chemicals (12)

Programme activity 01.3: Promotion of sustainable development

Programme elements

- 01.3.1 Environment and economics: assessment of the situation in economies in transition (12)
- 01.3.2 Use of economic instruments for environmental policies (3)
- 01.3.3 Impact of economic instruments for environmental policies on privatized industrial and agricultural enterprises (13)
- 01.3.4 Interaction between privatization processes and the environment (6)
- 01.3.5 Pricing of natural resources (16)
- 01.3.6 Responsibility and liability (27)

Programme activity 01.4: Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context

Programme elements

- 01.4.1 Policies and strategies promoting environmental impact assessment (EIA) (5)
- 01.4.2 Strengthening the capabilities of future Parties to comply with the obligations under the Convention (17)
- 01.4.3 Guidelines on EIA (13)
- 01.4.4 Database on EIA (21)
- 01.4.5 International centres on EIA (32)
- 01.4.6 Format for notification (34)
- 01.4.7 International efforts to strengthen EIA (27)
- 01.4.8 Methodological aspects (24)

Programme activity 01.5: Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes

Programme elements

- 01.5.1 Policies and strategies (6)
- 01.5.2 Prevention, control and reduction of pollution from point sources (17)
- 01.5.3 Prevention, control and reduction of pollution from diffuse sources (15)
- 01.5.4 Monitoring and assessment of conditions of transboundary waters (6)
- 01.5.5 Bilateral and multilateral agreements and other arrangements regarding the protection and use of transboundary waters (25)
- 01.5.6 Legal and administrative aspects (35)
- 01.5.7 Sustainable water management (21)
- 01.5.8 Preparations for the first meeting of the Parties to the Convention (27)

Programme activity 01.6: Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents

Programme elements

01.6.1 Information on the implementation of the Convention (31)
01.6.2 Points of contact (25)
01.6.3 Past industrial accidents (32)
01.6.4 Regional Coordinating Centre for Industrial Accident Training and Exercises (19)
01.6.5 Regional Coordinating Centre for the Prevention of Industrial Accidents (21)
01.6.6 Hazardous substances for the purposes of defining hazardous activities (23)
01.6.7 Preparation of the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention (27)

SUB-PROGRAMME 02 - TRANSPORT

Authority: Programme of work of the Inland Transport Committee, approved by the Committee at its fifty-eighth session (ECE/TRANS/116, para. 184 and Add.1)

Programme activity 02.1: Transport trends and economics

Programme elements

02.1.1 Review of general trends with regard to transport development and transport policy (1)
02.1.2 Analysis of specific transport economic issues (2)
02.1.3 Development of transport in the Mediterranean Region (2)

Programme activity 02.2: Road transport

Programme elements

02.2.1 Road transport infrastructure (1)
02.2.2 Harmonization of requirements concerning international road transport and facilitation of its operations (1)
02.2.3 Road transport safety (1)

Programme activity 02.3: Construction of vehicles

Programme elements

02.3.1 Harmonization and improvement of regulations and recommendations for road vehicles (1)
02.3.2 Arrangements for the elimination of technical barrirs to inter-national trade of motor vehicles and their equipment and parts (1)

Programme activity 02.4: Rail transport

Programme elements

02.4.1 Rail transport infrastructure (1)
02.4.2 Linking of the European transport network to that of other regions' railways (3)
02.4.3 Harmonization of requirements concerning international railway transport and facilitation of its operations (1)
02.4.4 Rail safety (1)
02.4.5 Harmonization of legal regulations applicable to the contract for the transport of goods and passengers by rail

Programme activity 02.5: Inland water transport

Programme elements

02.5.1 Inland waterway infrastructure (1)
02.5.2 Harmonization of requirements concerning international inland waterway transport and facilitation of its operations, including the study of legal provisions (2)
02.5.3 Harmonization and improvement of standards for inland navigation vessels (3)
02.5.4 Inland water transport safety (1)

Programme activity 02.6: Transport of dangerous goods

Programme element

Regulations on the transport of dangerous goods by road, rail, inland waterways and combined transport (1)

Programme activity 02.7: Environmental protection and energy saving in transport

Programme elements

02.7.1 Impact of transport infrastructure and operations on the environment, including pollution and noise (1)

02.7.2 1996 Regional Conference on Transport and the Environment

Programme activity 02.8: Combined transport

Programme elements

02.8.1 Promotion of combined and multimodal transport (1)

02.8.2 Safety requirements for the construction, maintenance and handling of combined transport equipment (2)

Programme activity 02.9: Customs questions affecting transport

Programme element

Harmonization and simplification of requirements for border crossing procedures concerning modes of inland transport (1)

Programme activity 02.10: Transport of perishable foodstuffs

Programme element

Harmonization of regulations and standards relating to the international transport of perishable foodstuffs and facilitation of its operation (2)

Programme activity 02.11: Transport statistics and information

Programme elements

02.11.1 Methods of collection and definition of s' tistics on inland transport and road traffic accidents (2)

02.11.2 Publication of statistical information in the field of transport (3)

Programme activity 02.12: Facilitation of movement and transport of disabled persons

Programme element

Road, rail and inland waterway transport aspects (3)

Programme activity 02.13: General issues

Programme element

Periodical circulation of selected transport information (3)

SUB-PROGRAMME 03 - STATISTICS

Authority: Programme of work of the Conference of European Statisticians, approved by the Conference at its forty-third session (ECE/CES/48, paras. 13-90 and CES/1995/R.25 and Add.1-6).

Programme activity 03.1: Organization and operation of statistical services

Programme elements

03.1.1 Issues of statistical policy (A)

03.1.2 Transition countries (A)

03.1.3 Promotion and coordination of international statistical work (A)

03.1.4 Technical assistance to developing countries (A)

Programme activity 03.2: Technical infrastructure and other cross-cutting issues

Programme elements

03.2.1 Management of statistical information technology (A)
03.2.2 Statistical data collection and processing (A)
03.2.3 Dissemination and interchange of statistical information (A)
03.2.4 Industry, commodity and occupation classifications (C)
03.2.5 Statistical methodology (C)
03.2.6 Geography (A)
03.2.7 Regional statistics (C)
03.2.8 Training (C)

Programme activity 03.3: Economic statistics

Programme elements

03.3.1 Implementation of the system of national accounts (A)
03.3.2 Money and banking, government finance, and balance of payments (C)
03.3.3 International trade in goods (C)
03.3.4 Transport (A)
03.3.5 Distributive trades (C)
03.3.6 International trade in services (C)
03.3.7 Tourism (C)
03.3.8 Other marketed services, and non-marketed services (C)
03.3.9 Price statistics, including purchasing power parities (A)
03.3.10 Agricultural statistics (A)
03.3.11 Industrial statistics (C)
03.3.12 Energy statistics (B)
03.3.13 Science and technology statistics (C)
03.3.14 Business registers and administrative records in support of economic statistics (A)
03.3.XX Other work in the field of economic statistics

Programme activity 03.4: Social and demographic statistics

Programme elements

03.4.1 Social indicators and frameworks (C)
03.4.2 Gender statistics (A)
03.4.3 Multi-purpose social surveys (C)
03.4.4 Registers and administrative records for social and demographic statistics (B)
03.4.5 Population and housing censuses (A)
03.4.6 Health statistics (B)
03.4.7 Crime and criminal justice statistics (C)
03.4.8 Education and training statistics (A)
03.4.9 Culture statistics (B)
03.4.10 Labour statistics (C)
03.4.11 Demographic statistics (including projections, migration and fertility) (A)
03.4.12 Human settlements and housing statistics (C)
03.4.13 Statistics of household income, of the welfare of the population and of poverty and income inequality (A)
03.4.14 Statistics on populations groups of special interest (C)
03.4.XX Other work in the field of social and demographic statistics

Programme activity 03.5: Natural resources and environment statistics

Programme elements

03.5.1 Standards and frameworks for environmental data and indicators (A)
03.5.2 Natural resources and environmental accounting (A)
03.5.3 Environmental database development and dissemination (A)

Programme activity 03.6: Dissemination and support for secretariat activities

Programme elements

03.6.1 Dissemination of statistical data by the secretariats (A)

03.6.2 Statistical support for other activities of the secretariats (A)

SUB-PROGRAMME 04 - TRADE FACILITATION

Authority: Programme of work of the Committee on the Development of Trade, approved by the Committee at its forty-fourth session (ECE/TRADE/199, para 52 and Annex I).

Programme activity 04.1: Data elements and automatic data interchange (1)

Programme activity 04.2: International trade procedures and documentation (1)

SUB-PROGRAMME 05 - ECONOMIC ANALYSIS

Authority: Programme of work of the Senior Economic Advisers to ECE Governments, approved by the Senior Advisers at their thirty-first session (ECE/EC.AD/48, paras. 45-48 and Annex)

Programme activity 05.1: Exchange of information on economic developments

Programme element

05.1.1 Exchange of information on the development of national economies and on policies and programmes (1)

Programme activity 05.2: Long-term projections and perspectives

Programme elements

05.2.1 Growth conditions in the period 1996-2000 and their long-term implications (2)

05.2.2 Specialized long-term macroeconomic database and related modelling work (6)

Programme activity 05.3: Selected structural economic issues

Programme elements

05.3.1 International trade and structural changes - interregional and intraregional trends and policies (4)

05.3.2 Structural changes in the ECE region and their impact on employment, labour productivity, working patterns and income distribution (3)

05.3.3 Sustainable economic development (5)

Authority: Terms of reference of the Commission; relevant resolutions and other decisions of the Economic and Social Council and the Commission.

Programme activity 05.4: Economic developments, problems and prospects in the ECE region

Programme elements

05.4.1 Review of economic developments, problems and prospects in the ECE region

Description: At its annual sessions the Commission will review economic developments, problems and prospects in the ECE region.

Work accomplished and to be undertaken: In response to Commission decisions O (45) and B (46), particular emphasis is given to the analysis of the transition and related policy issues. This is reflected in the annual Economic Survey of Europe and the Economic Bulletin for Europe, both of which contain an increased coverage of economic and policy developments in the transition economies. Both the Survey and the Bulletin, as well as other special studies and statistical bulletins prepared and published by the secretariat, are made available to

the Commission for this annual review. In its decision B (46), the Commission invited the Senior Economic Advisers and the secretariat, in accordance with the relevant provisions of decision O (45) and having in mind the right and responsibility of the secretariat to exercise independent judgement in its analysis, to deepen their consultations in order to achieve the highest quality of the Survey, notably by improving pre-publication exchange of views; and stressed the need for this Survey to be published in time to enable it to be properly studied and reflected upon during the annual session (paragraph 8).

Duration: Continuing

05.4.2 Population

Description: The Executive Secretary carries out work in the field of population, within existing resources, and maintains collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) for the implementation of the relevant recommendations of regional meetings of experts on population convened periodically, but not more than every two years, in cooperation with UNFPA. These meetings aim to provide consultations amongst Governments and the dissemination and exchange of information on population problems and policies in the ECE region. The most recent intergovernmental European Population Conference (Geneva, March 1993) provided an elaborate set of recommendations.

Work accomplished: Collaboration with UNFPA is maintained through projects dealing, respectively, with population trends in the countries with economies in transition, economic and social implications of aging, international migration, and promotion of fertility and family surveys in the ECE region. Funding for these projects is provided by UNFPA.

Work to be undertaken: Follow-up to the World Conference in 1994, in cooperation and collaboration with the other relevant organizations, as well as the continuation of ongoing activities as described.

Duration: Continuing.

SUB-PROGRAMME 06 - ENERGY

Authority: Programme of work of the Committee on Energy, approved by the Committee at its fifth session (ECE/ENERGY/28, paras. 70-72 and ENERGY/R.119)

Programme activity 06.1: Energy reforms in central and eastern Europe

Programme elements

06.1.1 Market adaptation of the energy economies in central and eastern Europe (1)
06.1.2 Transition of the coal industry from central planning to market economy (2)
06.1.3 The implication of economic reforms in central and eastern Europe for electric power demand, supply and cooperation (3)
06.1.4 Economic reform and restructuring in central and eastern Europe and their implications and significance for the gas markets and the gas industry in the ECE region (4)

Programme activity 06.2 Rational use of energy, efficiency, conservation

Programme elements

06.2.1 Energy Efficiency 2000 project (5)
06.2.2 Energy efficiency standards (6)
06.2.3 Energy conservation developments, policies and aspects in the region (7)
06.2.4 Energy efficiency in electric power (8)
06.2.5 Rational use of gas, including conservation and efficiency measures (9)

Programme activity 06.3: Energy trade, trade facilitation and infrastructure

Programme elements

- 06.3.1 Energy trade in the ECE region in a global context (10)
- 06.3.2 Market trends and trade facilitation in the coal industry (11)
- 06.3.3 Interconnection of electric power networks in Europe (12)
- 06.3.4 Developments in the gas industry, including trade and interconnections/extensions of gas networks in Europe (13)

Programme activity 06.4: Interface between energy and the environment

Programme elements

- 06.4.1 Sustainable energy development (14)
- 06.4.2 Economic instruments for sustainable energy development (15)
- 06.4.3 Sustainable coal development (16)
- 06.4.4 Environmental protection related to coal mining and coal utilization (17)
- 06.4.5 Environmental aspects in electric power (18)
- 06.4.6 Sustainable development in electric power (19)
- 06.4.7 Gas industry and the environment, including climate change and sustainable development (20)
- 06.4.8 Promotion of renewable sources of energy within the context of the Environmental Programme for Europe

Programme activity 06.5: Energy policies and prospects, and related statistics and projections

Programme elements

- 06.5.1 National energy programmes, policies and prospects, and related balances, projections and data banks (21)
- 06.5.2 Annual bulletins of energy statistics for Europe (22)
- 06.5.3 Overview of energy-related activities in ECE (23)

Programme activity 06.6: Energy demand and supply issues for sustainable development

Programme elements

- 06.6.1 Significant new developments affecting energy demand and supply in the short and medium term (24)
- 06.6.2 Promoting international cooperation for renewable sources of energy (25)
- 06.6.3 Developments in the coal industry (26)
- 06.6.4 Electric power developments, policies and statistics (27)
- 06.6.5 Developments in the gas industry, including trade and interconnections/extensions of gas networks (28)

SUB-PROGRAMME 07 - DEVELOPMENT OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE

Authority: Programme of work of the Committee on the Development of Trade, approved by the Committee at its forty-fourth session (ECE/TRADE/199, para 52 and Annex I).

Programme activity 07.1: Trade promotion

Programme elements

- 07.1.1 Preparation and revision of Guides relating to international commercial transactions (2)
- 07.1.2 Organization of seminars and workshops (3)
- 07.1.3 Information relevant to business operators (5)

Programme activity 07.2: Analysis of recent trends in trade, policies and problems

Programme elements

- 07.2.1 Discussion themes for the Committee's annual sessions (4)
- 07.2.2 Analysis of recent and prospective trade trends, policies and problems (4)

SUB-PROGRAMME 08 - INDUSTRY AND TECHNOLOGY

08(A) - SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Authority: Programme of work of the Senior Advisers to ECE Governments on Science and Technology, approved by the Senior Advisers at their twenty-first session (ECE/SC.TECH/46, paras. 26-27 and Annex).

Programme activity 08(A).1: Current developments in science and technology policies

Programme element

08(A).1.1 Review of changes in national policies, priorities and institutions, and international cooperation (1)

Programme activity 08(A).2: Role of science and technology in securing sustainable development of the economies in transition

Programme elements

08(A).2.1 State policy in economies in transition aimed at promoting innovation (3)

08(A).2.2 Reorganization of the system of management of science and technology under new economic and political conditions (4)

Programme activity 08(A).3: Selected issues in science and technology

Programme element

08(A).3.1 Inventory of existing safety guidelines in biotechnology (2)

08(B) - CHEMICALS

Authority: Programme of work of the Working Party on the Chemical Industry, approved by the Working Party at its fifth session (ECE/CHEM/101, paras. 53-54 and Annex I).

Programme activity 08(B).1: Long- and medium-term trends and prospects including current developments and statistics in the chemical industry

Programme elements

08(B).1.1 The Chemical Industry - Annual Review (1)

08(B).1.2 Market trends and outlook for selected chemical products (13)

08(B).1.3 Development of internationally comparable statistics including those for specialized products (14)

08(B).1.4 Publication of the Bulletin of Trade in Chemical Products (12)

Programme activity 08(B).2: Chemical industry - sustainable economic and ecological development (CHEMISEED) and other environmental and resource issues in the chemical industry

Programme elements

08(B).2.1 Environmental clean-up of selected sites polluted by chemicals in central and eastern Europe (2)

08(B).2.2 Comparative Data Bank on chemical legislation in the countries of the ECE region (3)

08(B).2.3 Seminars and workshops on clean technology in the chemical industry (11)

08(B).2.4 Regional Environmental Management Centre for the Chemical Industry (8)

08(B).2.5 Soil decontamination and remediation technologies (15)

Programme activity 08(B).3: Economic issues and information on the chemical industry including assistance to countries in transition

Programme elements

08(B).3.1 Directory of the Chemical Industry (10)
08(B).3.2 Trends in structural and ownership changes in the chemical industries of the economies in transition (7)
08(B).3.3 Studies of national developments in the chemical industry (9)
08(B).3.4 Industrial parks in the ECE region (16)
08(B).3.5 Workshop on restructuring and modernization of the chemical industry of countries in transition (6)

Programme activity 08(B).4: Advanced chemical processes and products

Programme elements

08(B).4.1 Seminar on membrane technology (4)
08(B).4.2 Workshop on process integration (5)

08(C) - ENGINEERING INDUSTRIES AND AUTOMATION

Authority: Programme of work of the Working Party on Engineering Industries and Automation, approved by the Working Party at its thirteenth session (ECE/ENG.AUT/54, para. 42 and Annex I)

Programme activity 08(C).1: Current medium- and long-term trends and prospects in engineering industries and automation

Programme elements

08(C).1.1 Medium- and long-term assessment of engineering industries in national, regional and global economies (3)
08(C).1.2 Current developments and prospects in engineering industries and automation, including appropriate aspects of international cooperation in this sector (2)

Programme activity 08(C).2: The role of engineering industries in environmental protection and resource saving

Programme elements

08(C).2.1 Low-waste technologies in engineering industries (7)
08(C).2.2 Electric vehicle rallies and associated activities (8)

Programme activity 08(C).3: Assistance to engineering industries in economies in transition

Programme elements

08(C).3.1 Workshop on Economic Aspects of the Implementation of New Technologies in Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) (4)
08(C).3.2 Engineering materials and technologies (9)

Programme activity 08(C).4: Selected issues in engineering industries and in automation

Programme elements

08(C).4.1 Rehabilitation engineering (6)
08(C).4.2 Industrial robots (5)

Programme activity 08(C).5: Statistics in engineering industries and automation

Programme element

08(C).5.1 Development of internationally comparable statistics (1)

08(D) - STANDARDIZATION

Authority: Programme of work of the Working Party on Standardization Policies, approved by Working Party at its fifth session (ECE/STAND/42, para. 33 and Annex).

Programme activity 08(D).1: Coordination

Programme elements

08(D).1.1 Identification of problems (7)
08(D).1.2 Regular guidance for international standardization through identification of sectors of interest to member Governments (8)
08(D).1.3 Preparation and implementation of recommendations (9)

Programme activity 08(D).2: Harmonization

Programme elements

08(D).2.1 Review of developments, prospects and problems at the international, regional and national levels (10)
08(D).2.2 Measures to facilitate the harmonization of principles and practices of standardization and related activities (11)
08(D).2.3 Training (4)
08(D).2.4 Measures to facilitate the implementation of standards and technical regulations (12)
08(D).2.5 Approval of definitions of terms used internationally in the fields of standardization and related activities (13)
08(D).2.6 Preparation and implementation of recommendations and/or conventions and other legal documents (14)

Programme activity 08(D).3: Conformity assessment

Programme elements

08(D).3.1 Identification of problems (1)
08(D).3.2 Promotion of international certification systems and arrangements (2)
08(D).3.3 Measures to achieve mutual confidence in the technical competence and reliability of conformity assessment systems (3)
08(D).3.4 Aspects of metrology relevant to testing activities (5)

Programme activity 08(D).4: Quality policy and competitiveness (6)

08(E) - STEEL

Authority: Programme of work of the Working Party on Steel, approved by the Working Party at its fifth session (ECE/STEEL/91, paras. 63-64 and Annex I).

Programme activity 08(E).1: Long-term trends and prospects in the iron and steel industry (5)

Programme element

08(E).1.1 Long-term prospects in the iron and steel industry

Programme activity 08(E).2: Current developments and medium-term prospects in the iron and steel industry, including international trade (1)

Programme element

08(E).2.1 Short-term developments and prospects in the steel industry and the steel market

Programme activity 08(E).3: Economic and technological issues in the iron and steel industry, including assistance to countries in transition (3)

Programme elements

08(E).3.1 Studies of national developments in the iron and steel industry
08(E).3.2 Privatization and changing ownership in the steel industry
08(E).3.3 Reconversion policies in coal and steel producing regions
08(E).3.4 Restructuring of the iron and steel industry
08(E).3.5 21st century steel industry of the Russian Federation and the CIS (Iron and steel: high quality and sustainable development)

Programme activity 08(E).4: Metallurgy and ecology - environmental issues in the iron and steel industry (4)

Programme elements

08(E).4.1 Iron and steel scrap: its significance and influence on further developments in the iron and steel industries
08(E).4.3 Processing, utilization and disposal of waste materials in the steel industry
08(E).4.4 Directory of organizations dealing with steel and the environment
08(E).4.5 Harmonization of regulations
08(E).4.6 Training and retraining of managers and technical staff in the steel industry

Programme activity 08(E).5: Iron and steel statistics (2)

Programme elements

08(E).5.1 Development of steel statistics
08(E).5.2 Publication of steel statistics

SUB-PROGRAMME 09 - AGRICULTURE AND TIMBER
09(A) - AGRICULTURE

Authority: Programme of work of the Committee on Agricultural Problems, approved by the Committee at its forty-sixth session (ECE/AGRI/134, paras. 41-43 and Annex III)

Programme activity 09(A).1: Economic analysis of the agri-food sector

Programme elements

09(A).1.1 Review of recent developments and prospects in agriculture and agricultural policies in the European region (6)
09(A).1.2 Review of agricultural markets and trade (9)
09(A).1.3 Activities of the FAO/ECE Working Party on the Economics of the Agri-Food Sector and Farm Management (3)
09(A).1.4 Prices of agricultural products and inputs (11)

Programme activity 09(A).2: Agriculture and the environment

Programme elements

09(A).2.1 Economic, legal, technological and regulatory measures for the promotion of environmentally sustainable agriculture and production of healthy food (5)
09(A).2.2 Integrated environmentally sound agricultural practices (7)
09(A).2.3 Effects of radionuclear contamination and measures for the elimi-nation of their consequences for agriculture and rural areas (12)
09(A).2.4 External environmental factors (including pollution by industries and other human activities) and their impact on the quantity and quality of agricultural production: economic, regulatory and institutional aspects (9)

Programme activity 09(A).3: Standardization of perishable produce and quality development

Programme element

09(A).3.1 Activities of the Working Party on Standardization of Perishable Produce and Quality Development (1)

Programme activity 09(A).4: Food and agricultural statistics

Programme elements

09(A).4.1 Improvement, development and harmonization of food and agricultural statistics (2)
09(A).4.2 New agricultural statistics in transition countries (4)
09(A).4.3 Environment-related agricultural statistics (8)
09(A).4.4 Revised Handbook for international collection of statistics (10)

SUB-PROGRAMME 09(B) - TIMBER

Authority: Programme of work of the Timber Committee, approved by the Committee at its fifty-third session (ECE/TIM/85, paras. 41-45 and Annex I) (integrated programme for the Timber Committee and the FAO European Forestry Commission (EFC); some items for which the EFC is responsible are also shown for information, and to preserve a common numbering system).

Programme activity 09(B).1: Policies for sustainable development of the forest and forest industries sector (including analysis for policy formulation)

Programme elements

09(B).1.1 Contribution to the follow-up of UNCED and the Helsinki Ministerial Conference on Protection of Forests in Europe (1)
09(B).1.2 Outlook for the supply and demand of timber (3)
09(B).1.3 Outlook for the supply and demand of non-wood goods and services (8)
09(B).1.4 Review of rational forest policies and tropical policy issues (EFC responsibility)
09(B).1.5 Use of wood for energy (12)
09(B).1.6 Recycling of paper: consequences for the sector (17)
09(B).1.7 Forest sector policies in the Mediterranean region (EFC responsibility)
09(B).1.8 Promotion of public awareness and understanding, including public relations (10)
09(B).1.9 Certification of forest products (11)

Programme activity 09(B).2: Data and information for sustainable development

Programme elements

09(B).2.1 Monitoring of the temperate and boreal forest resource (Forest Resource Assessment (5)
09(B).2.2 Collection and dissemination of forest products statistics (4)
09(B).2.3 Research networks on Mediterranean forestry questions (EFC responsibility)
09(B).2.4 Forest fire statistics (23)

Programme activity 09(B).3: Promotion of sustainable forestry

Programme elements

09(B).3.1 Multiple use forestry (13)
09(B).3.2 Management of mountain watersheds (EFC responsibility)
09(B).3.3 Development of the human resource (14)
09(B).3.4 Environmentally sound forest roads and wood transport (15)

Programme activity 09(B).4: Protection of forests, prevention and control of forest damage

Programme elements

09(B).4.1 Forest fire prevention and control (22)
09(B).4.2 Management of forests in areas contaminated by radiation (18)
09(B).4.3 Reduction of the impact of forest operations on ecosystems (16)

Programme activity 09(B).5: Assistance to countries in transition

Programme elements

09(B).5.1 Implementation of Resolution H3 of the Helsinki Ministerial Conference (6)

09(B).5.2 Programme of activities for countries in transition, notably workshops (7)

Programme activity 09(B).6: Forest industries and markets for forest products

Programme element

09(B).6.1 Review of markets for forest products and shortterm forecasts (2)

SUB-PROGRAMME 10 - HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

Authority: Programme of work of the Committee on Human Settlements, approved by the Committee at its fifty-sixth session (ECE/HBP/93, paras.55-60 and Annex III).

Programme activity 10.1: Basic issues

Programme elements

10.1.2 Human settlements situation and related current trends and policies (1)

10.1.2 Development of human settlements statistics (2)

10.1.3 ECE contribution to the Habitat II Conference (1)

Programme activity 10.2: Sustainable development of human settlements

Programme elements

10.2.1 Sustainable human settlements planning and management (1)

10.2.2 Major trends influencing human settlements development (2)

10.2.3 Human settlements problems in southern Europe (2)

Programme activity 10.3: Process of socio-economic transition

Programme elements

10.3.1 Strategies for implementation of urban renewal and housing modernization policy (1)

10.3.2 Cadastre and land registration systems (1)

10.3.3 Country profiles on the housing sector (1)

10.3.4 Glossary on housing finance and related policy issues (1)

ANNEX V

SUMMING-UP OF THE DISCUSSIONS OF THE ROUND TABLE AS PRESENTED BY THE CHAIRMAN, MR. P. BARNEVIK

General level:

- Business representatives showed a strong commitment to an ongoing dialogue with Governments and stated that the ECE could serve as a forum to facilitate such exchanges.

- Countries in transition (CITs) need each to develop a clear vision and make a firm commitment to change.

- CITs cannot be treated as homogeneous zones. Each country and its needs must be analysed on an individual basis.

Industrial Policy:

- ECE should establish a high-level East-West forum to exchange information and best practice on industrial policy development and implementation, and recommend ways to eliminate barriers to effective industrial policy.

- CITs need to keep up with three trends and join international networks in: automation, globalization of the economy and the environmental movement.

- The Round Table drew attention to the need for the countries in transition to further develop their social systems to facilitate industrial restructuring.

International Trade

- Western Governments should promote more two-way trade and remove trade barriers, in particular for exportable goods.

- ECE should arrange high-level problem-solving meetings targeted at specific obstacles to trade.

- Pre-accession preparations for entry into the European Union and trade agreements with the EU should be accelerated and definite time tables should be delineated by the EU.

- Foreign investors need more information on trade conditions in CITs.

Foreign Direct Investment

- Foreign investors should promote the establishment of Government/industry advisory councils in CITs to attract and encourage further foreign investment. This should involve Chief Executive Officers, minister-level officials, and be on a country-by-country basis.

- ECE should act as a clearing house for best practices and bench-marking between these advisory councils.

- Foreign investment should also focus on human resources development.

Local Human Resources Building

- Foreign investors should commit to establishing intensive and continuous training of local employees in CITs, establishing individual or joint training and retraining facilities.

- CIT Governments in collaboration with ECE and the private sector should redirect and strengthen research and development efforts towards market-oriented product development.

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